PO Box 295
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THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Vol. 2, No. 10 March 1992

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

"How do we capture our rage and turn it into positive energy? Through the power of women working together, whether it be in the political arena or in the context of a law suit, or in community service." Anita Hill

Free

Urban Onion Boycott

Tom Freeman

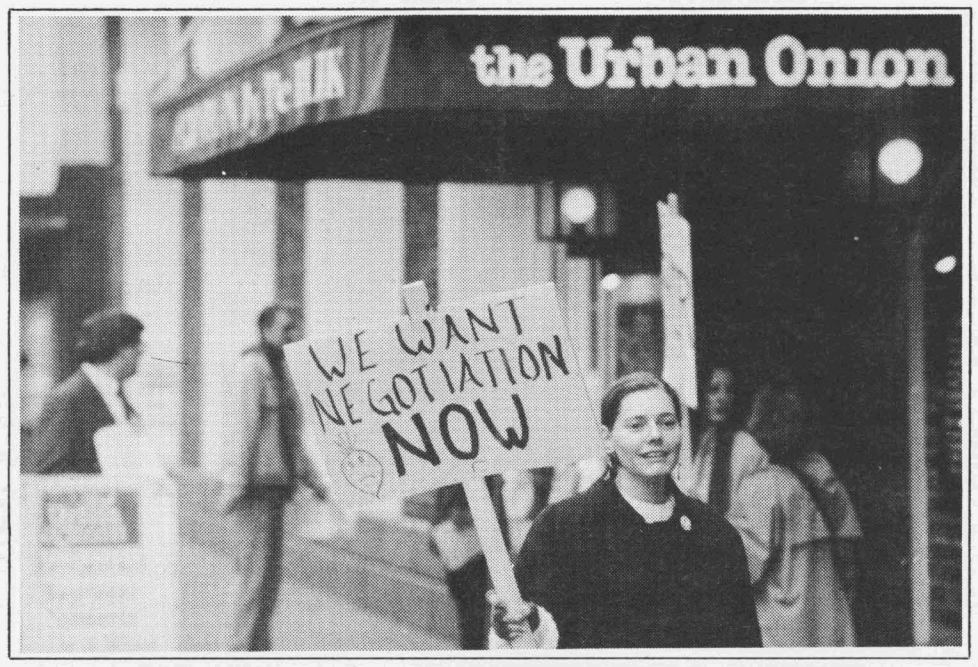
Urban Onion employees who are picketing for the right to union representation are asking customers to support them by boycotting the restaurant until the owners agree to negotiate a contract. A flyer prepared by the workers state, "We the people at the Urban Onion who cook and serve your meals, asked Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union Local 8 to represent us. The union said they would, if 80% of the people who work at the UO want a union. 80% of us then signed cards designating H.E.R.E. Local 8 as our representative..."

Workers say they want: a grievance procedure implemented, fair treatment of all employees, job security, a regular schedule that workers can follow, and the restaurant owners to follow their own seniority procedures. Over 80% worker support for unionization indicates a high level of frustration with current work conditions. One has to wonder why there is so much frustration at the Urban Onion and who is responsible?

"The major thing I've seen happen in the past couple of months is a total breakdown in communication between the owners and the workers," said Waitperson Perri Lynch. "Our kitchen manager, Joe Earlywine was given a choice between quitting or getting fired. There was no staff meeting. Nobody was told anything. I consider that a major change when the kitchen manager is fired. I would have expected the owners to let the workers know what was happening."

Danny Kincaid-Kass, who worked at the Urban Onion for six years, concurs. "He [Joe Earlywine] was the last in a line of five or six employees fired in the last year. Joe was really the only effective manager that we had. He was a good manager and he had the respect of the people who were under him in the kitchen. He got the job done. His being fired was too much for everybody. It was. 'My god, if Joe Earlywine gets fired, then none of our jobs are safe. Where is it going to end?'" Union Onion management have stated that Earlywine had resigned.

"They've claimed that I resigned," said Earlywine. "But my final check was signed and sealed in an envelope when I walked in to the meeting, and it wasn't payday." Earlywine says that he was fired mainly for "not keeping labor costs down." Full-time employees however were only working 55 hours in a two-week period.



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In response to the union activities of their employees, the Urban Onion owners appear to have pursued a strategy of portraying the restaurant as a struggling business run by a small-time business woman who started it in the basement of her home. Buttons given to their friends and anti-union customers say "we support Elyse." The restaurant is listed in the name of Steve Harrington, with Elyse Harrington listed as a 50% co-owner.

According to Public Disclosure Commission files which Steve Harrington is required to fill out in his role as a research analyst of the Senate Republican Caucus, he is part owner in two water companies, a mobile home park, and numerous other rental properties as well as having an extensive portfolio with stocks, bonds and other annuities, in addition to the catering business and the Urban Onion Restaurant. PDC documents don't require the filer to be exact in the numbers that they report, but these files do show that Mr. Harrington and his family gross a minimum of $144,000 per year. Forms leave open the question of how much more. The forms appear to debunk the image the owners are trying to create of a small business struggling for survival.

Steven Aldrich, union representative for H.E.R.E. Local 8, has filed charges of Unfair Labor Practices against Elyse and Steve Harrington with the National Labor Relations Board. Among the charges are coercion by "threatening, disciplining, harassing, and terminating employees" for protected union activities. It also charges the Harringtons with "discrimination," and refusing to bargain while "publicly claiming that it supports the idea of a union and will meet to bargain in good faith." Repeated phone calls to Elyse Harrington from *Works in Progress* were not returned. A man who identified himself as "Steve" refused to offer comments for the story, and indicated that Elyse was unavailable. According to unidentified sources, the only "Steve" at the Urban Onion is Steve Harrington.

"Steve is the Vice-President of Elyse's Potpourri and Deli business which owns the Urban Onion," according to Danny Kincaid-Kass. "He had nothing basically to do with the operation of the restaurant until the unionization campaign began. Since that time, he has been the mouthpiece. He has been completely in charge of dealing with this issue in particular."

Employee Jason Wallach stated, ""Everyone who has not signed a union card has a full schedule." In response to the Harringtons' strategy to portray Elyse as a victim of UO employees, Wallach said, "this is not a personal attack against the owners. We're working for fair working conditions."

"Most of the people who come into the restaurant now are friends of Elyse's," said Perri Lynch "I've had some people say, 'yes, we're aware of your boycott. That's why we're coming to eat here.' The interesting thing about the people who are coming to eat here is that I don't recognize a single face. And the restaurant has had a very regular clientele. Some days I would know most of the people who were eating there just from waiting on them regularly."

Waitperson Andrea Peregrin agreed. "A friend of Elyse's flipped us off telling us we were 'disruptive youth complaining about having a job. You're all parent supported and you all need your umbilical cords cut.' I support myself. I pay my own way through school. And if I was parent supported, I wouldn't be out here trying to protect my job." Wallach, Lynch and Peregrin have each been given one shift in the past week. Employees who have not signed the union cards are reportedly working 40-plus hours a week and double shifts.

Danny Kincaid-Kass, the employee who initiated contact with the union, says that after Joe Earlywine was fired, everyone feared for their jobs. "I went around to approximately 10 employees and I said, 'look, this is a bad situation. We need to do something. If I call the union and it sounds like they can help us, would you be interested in pursuing a unionizing effort. And the people I talked with were unanimously supportive. We had 84 per cent of the Urban Onion employees support us when all the cards were

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Letters

Learn to Listen

Dear Editors:

I read through recent letters to the editors. The letter writers state that Dennis Ginoza's concerns about a samurai editorial cartoon are kneejerk, senseless, over sensitive, minor, trivial, and thin-skinned. The writers give history lessons and drew analogies all over the place. All agree that Dennis is wrong, that we should not listen to him, that space and time has been wasted.

So apparently Dennis is supposed to shut up. He is not supposed to see what he sees. He is supposed to be quiet, and when he does speak - he must only say what we want him to say.

All of this abuse sounds familiar to me. I, and Nancy, many others experience and witness it daily. We are told that we are hysterical, exaggerating, in a huff, imagining things, crazy, over-reacting, illogical, and bad.

Why don't we all try something new? Why don't we truly listen to each other? As Amoja Three Rivers writes - "we are . . . experts on our own lives and conditions. If you do not understand or believe or agree with what someone is saying about their own oppression, do not automatically assume that they are wrong or paranoid or oversensitive." ("Cultural Etiquette: A Guide", MS. Magazine, Sept/Oct 1991.)

Sincerely,
Sarah Light

WIP EDITORIAL BOARD

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Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the WIP Editorial Board and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (WordPerfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works in Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

Local Groups Support Strike: OMJP and Local 443

To Works In Progress,

The Olympia Movement For Justice and Peace (OMJP) supports the right of the Urban Onion workers to organize into a union. We see the workers' struggle for social justice as important because they are asserting their basic democratic and economic rights to have a union. This struggle helps all other workers: A victory for one is a victory for all.

The management maintains that it does not want to force unionization on its workers, when in fact eighty percent of the workers possess union authorization cards. The workers are actively seeking more control over their workplace.

We request that until the workers are allowed to form a union, everyone boycott the Urban Onion.

In Solidarity,
OMJP

Dear Mr. Mrs. Harrington,

In the name of our Local, I urge you to immediately sit down and negotiate a union contract with the 26 workers who formed a union at Urban Onion. Until a union contract has been negotiated with these workers, represented by HERE Local 8, our Local voted at our general membership meeting on Tuesday, February 18th to: Formally support a boycott of the Urban Onion; Encourage our 2200 members, all of whom are state workers in the Olympia area, to boycott the Urban Onion restaurant and all other retail and commercial operations owned by you; promote the boycott in our newsletter and union advertisements; send $500 to their Sustaining Fund to support these workers while they organize for a contract with you.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrington, many of our members and their co-workers are regular customers of the Urban Onion. We've eaten breakfast and lunch there for many years prior to your purchase. We have enjoyed the ambiance, the competent young workers and the food.

However, when 26 young workers risk loss of work, hours and livelihood to form union, there is something wrong that you need to discuss with them. Please, for the sake of these young workers, the state workers who would like to go to the Urban Onion and our community standards negotiate a contract with these union workers.

Sincerely, Mary Burbage
President, Local 443

3rd Annual Rachel Carson Environmental Forum

The Masters of Environmental Studies GSA, in conjunction with Wolf Haven and the Environmental Resource Center, invite you to the 3rd Annual Rachel Carson Environmental Forum on

Wednesday, March 4th at 7 pm in Lecture Hall 1 at TESC

Our program this year begins with a presentation on "Wolves & Grizzlies: Recovery Perspectives from the Greater Yellowstone and North Cascades Ecosystems" by Louisa Wilcox, the Director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and Jon Almack, Grizzly Bear/Wolf Investigations, Washington State Department of Wildlife.

There will be information and refreshments at the break and music to follow by acclaimed ecofolk artist, Alice Dimicele.

If You Work For Peace, Stop Paying For War

Today I was informed by my long distance phone company, Phonelink, Inc. of Bellevue, that if I didn't pay up the back federal phone taxes (less than $1.00) within the next 30 days, they would disconnect my service. I have been refusing to pay my phone taxes now for many months. U.S. West and AT&T are only required to inform the IRS that I have refused to pay the tax. They are not required to collect the tax amount nor are they authorized to disconnect my service for nonpayment of the phone tax.

However, the new long distance companies fall into a different category. The IRS is trying to bully them into doing their dirty work for them. If my service is disconnected, I will appeal. I have no intention of paying this war tax. If my refusal to pay this tax results in the saving of

just one life worldwide, I can live without long distance service and it will be worth the inconvenience.

You can learn more about war tax resistance by writing to: National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, PO Box 774, Monroe, ME 04951. Their number is (207) 525-7774.

Gene Cade

Dear Friends, There's been good ink wasted lately on George Bush's "New World Order." As a nation, we now run an even greater risk of wallowing in the arrogance of undisputed power.

We are perilously close to some unquestioning assumptions: That "might makes right;" that "our military success shows that "our" life-style is the standard to which the rest of the world should conform; that it's OK to kill people if they don't conform - or sacrifice the health and well-being of the impoverished 2/3 of the world's people for the comfort of the other third of us.

War tax resistance allows people to refuse financial complicity with war. It's the most tangible and effectual thing most of us can do to confront the institution of war and challenge humanity to outgrow it.

Taken from the NWTRCC newsletter.

The World in Review

Dear Sir,

I am writing in protest of the continuing deteriorating environment caused by greed and search for profit of big business despite the numerous environment organizations. The air, water, land is contaminated by chemicals. The North and South Poles are producing larger and larger holes in the atmosphere admitting ultraviolet rays through to cause skin cancer, because of ozone depletion. Pesticides and chemicals in food. Nitrate and food colors etc. Irradiation of fruit, vegetables, wheat etc., while the testing of the process has not been completed nor proven safe. Vitamins and flavor are affected, formaldehyde is formed, a cancer producing chemical.

In the medical field the overuse of x-rays administered for almost every little ailment. Especially the testing for breast cancer in women. The female breast is highly sensitive to radiation caused cancer (National Geographic, April 1989) that doesn't appear up to 14 years later. The ads for breast x-rays is unconscienable. The greedy can see profit in everything and call it "Progress" while the world dies.

Yours truly,
Milton Poulos

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Continue to Fight Jack in the Box

A skirmish in the real battle over whether or not the city council will stop the permitting of a Jack-in-the-Box on the Westside ended the evening of February 11 in Olympia City Council chambers. The lessons learned for Westside neighbors were that they must organize a power base and get one more vote supporting their demand for the Jack-in-the-Box to not be permitted. For the Friends of the Westside to place all their eggs in one basket, have not organized their power base sufficiently is a strategic mistake.

The reality is grounded in the ability to gain and use a power base, the 2,600 Westside residents who signed a petition. It should be obvious to both sides of the freeze skirmish that one set of values won - the side that organized the vote, reflected in the 4 to 3 vote. Dave Skramstad, Rex Derr, Mark Foutch, and Mary Lux voted to deny the freeze. Nina Carter, Holly Gadbaw, and Sandra Romero voted for the freeze.

All that the freeze battle accomplished was drawing a line in the sand between some local business and property owners and the neighborhood. This only draws attention away from Jack-in-the-Box slipping by under the mistaken idea that since they are "vested" in the planning process, they are a done deal. We must not lose sight of the fact that the building permit for "Jack" has not been issued and is on appeal. It is not a done deal as some would like the Westsiders to think.

It is also pertinent to note that many communities have outright banned fast-food outlets from sections of their communities. San Francisco and Washington D.C. immediately come to mind. Regarding recent Congressional investigations into child labor violations in the fast-food industry, Representative Tom Lantos of California pointedly asked "Jack" President, Robert Nugent, "who was monitoring safety at Jack-in-the-Box, the clown?" This was in response to 354 child labor law citations which totaled $94,000 in fines for Jack-in-the-Box in California alone.

The question before the 2,600 Westsiders who signed the petition which started this battle is this: Will Westsiders throw up their hands and say "We can't beat city hall!" Or will there be renewed effort to extract the vote needed to overturn the application for the Jack-in-the-Box building permit?

The lesson to the Westsiders in the real battle over the Jack-in-the-Box is to mobilize 2,600 (and I'm sure this number could be increased) of their numbers and get the council votes they need to stop the Jack-in-the-Box. If not, Skramstad, Derr, Foutch and Lux are saying to Westsiders - Welcome to the Westside, Jack-in-the-Box! The city council will turn our neighborhood into Jack's driveway.

I am a resident of Olympia's Westside and work as an organizer for the District Council of Carpenters of Southern Puget Sound.

Mark Bean.

Olympia Women Mean Business, Jack!

Olympia area women gathered in February at the Plum Street Jack in the Box to "take the pledge."

The pledge is this: They'll continue to frequent the Plum Street Jack, but only if Jack withdraws his application to build a new Jack in the Box in their neighborhood on the Westside of Olympia.

These women and Jack Goodall, CEO of Foodmaker Inc., which owns Jack in the Box restaurants, agree on one thing. It is women who make the decision on whether or not to go to a Jack in the Box. In fact, Jack calls women the "market niche" of his Jack in the Box chain.

"Finger food is fine," says Kelly Janes, one of the pledge organizers, "but our neighborhood is more important to us." So Far, organizers likeMs. Janes have collected over 1,000 signatures from Westside residents asking Jack to withdraw his application before the City Council. They've also appealed Jack's parking plan and, according to Ms. Janes, "will stop the building permit by mobilizing all the women on the Westside."

Look out Jack, the pledge is going to eat your Mamma!

Boycott Updates

Cook's Champagne:

The Boycott Monthly received notification dated January 29,1992 from Harry Priest, International Vice President of the Wine & Allied Workers' Union that Local 45 and Local 186 had overwhelmingly ratified a three year contract with the Guild Wine Company, ending their long-standing boycott of Cook's Champagne. Mr. Priest extends his thanks to all who helped make their boycott successful.

Folgers Coffee: (Update to Vol. 1, No. 2, June 1991) *The Boycott Monthly* recently received Neighbor to Neighbor's January/February newsletter, notifying us that, in spite of the Salvadoran Peace Pact, the boycott of Salvadoran coffee remains in force. The newsletter reports that, "While we celebrate the signing of the historic peace accords as a dramatic step toward bringing democracy to El Salvador, real change will come only when the agreements are implemented . Given the likelihood of ferocious right-wing opposition to the peace plan, enormous pressure from many sources is required to help ensure fulfillment of the accords.

"The Salvadoran groups that initially endorsed the boycott have urged us to 'keep the pressure on' at this critical moment. We will remain in dialogue with organizations in El Salvador and in the U.S. to help us assess the need for economic pressure on the Salvadoran far right. The boycott of Salvadoran coffee will continue until the Salvadoran people are confident that changes called for by the peace accords will be implemented. In late November, we saw the boycott's impact when P&G, Maxwell House (owned by Kraft/General Foods) and Nestle bought full-page ads in all four Salvadoran dairy papers, pledging their support for the peace process and their desire to see a speedy end to the war! Any doubts that the economic powers of El Salvador might have had about the impact of consumer pressure on U.S. coffee companies were cleared up by this completely unprecedented action. Congratulations to all!"

"If pizza is an art
To Mamas has the brushes"
"Losing oneself in Olympia"
Sept. 21, 1987. CPJ
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Working Persons' Committee to Elect
Lenora Fulani
will get together
3 pm, March 14th
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Along the Color Line

A Blueprint for Multicultural Education

Dr. Manning Marable

The greatest challenge of education today is bringing together the richness and diversity of various languages, religions, cultures and ethnic identities which are reflected in the public schools across the United States. That task begins first with the actions of the classroom teacher, not some detached school administrator cloistered in some office building miles removed from the students. Children experience education primarily through their relationship with their teachers. If the classroom instructor's rhetoric embraces "multiculturalism", but his or her behavior is elitist and hostile to people of color, the child will quickly recognize the hypocrisy.

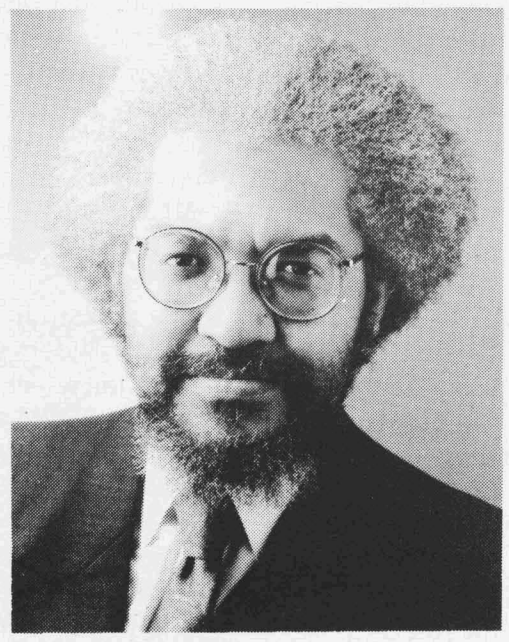
If African-American, Latino and other parents of color expect their children to succeed in school, we must demand a blueprint for multiculturalism and diversity, which becomes a central text for teaching and public school administration. Professor Ron Billingsley of the University of Colorado has recently published a set of guidelines, "Fostering Diversity in the Classroom," which provide helpful suggestions for an educational blueprint for reform.

First, every teacher in American schools today needs to create an environment of trust and mutual respect between all members of a class. Students will sometimes perceive differences in dress, hair, skin color or accent as indicators of inferiority. It's the teacher's job to establish the inherent equality and self-worth of each student in the class. Courtesy and respect for differences aren't just matters of style. They are necessary for a productive and harmonious learning environment.

Second, students must be viewed and treated as individual human beings rather than social categories. No individual should be expected to speak for an entire race, religion, ethnic group, language grouping, or culture. A person may choose to speak from a particular experience from a racial or minority perspective, and as such, she or he can provide meaningful insights into a problem or issue being discussed in class. But the teacher should not just assume that because a student is Mexican-American or African-American, that she or he will have all the answers about the historical and cultural origins of the "Cinco De Mayo" celebration, or will know every word to the Black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Culture and history aren't genetic, they are learned.

Courtesy and respect for differences aren't just matters of style. They are necessary for a productive and harmonious learning environment.

Third, a truly multicultural education must adhere to the basic principle, according to Professor Billingsley, of "celebrating everyone" while 'denigrating no one.' The traditional curriculum in American history courses, for example, is essentially a celebration of the white, western European experience. The fifty five wealthy white men who went to Philadelphia over two hundred years ago to draft the U.S. Constitution, are constantly referred to as America's "Founding Fathers." Never mind that twenty-five of them owned slaves, including the first president, George Washington. The violent and bloody expansion of white settlers across the Great Plains, which culminated in the massive destruction of American Indian tribes and their coerced relocation to reservations, is described glowingly as "Manifest Destiny", preordained by God. Despite recent reforms in American textbooks, most children still learn a history of the United States which is largely anchored to the interests of upper class white males. Women, Blacks, Latinos and people of color are marginal actors on the historical stage.



If we are serious about education, let us dare to tell the whole truth to our young people. We must reveal to them the complexity and diversity of other heritages and cultures, and not simply one narrowly partisan version of the past and present. We must discuss the slavery experience in the U.S. not just by reviewing the writings of Thomas Jefferson, the slaveholder who also authored the Declaration of Independence. We must also listen to Frederick Douglass, the great Black abolitionist, and antislavery orator Sojourner Truth. We must reconstruct the American domestic experience during World War II by including the fact that nearly one hundred thousand Japanese-Americans were stripped of their property, denied their constitutional rights, and forced into armed detention camps. Our task as teachers is not to distort the history or culture by placing one people's experience and accomplishments above those of everyone else.

Quality education for the twenty-first century must respect the unique heritages and achievements of all people. This issue is not simply an educational matter, but is also profoundly political. White Americans must recognize that at the end of this decade, one third of the United States population will consist of Asian-Americans, American Indians, Hispanics and Blacks. America's future is not "white", it is multi-ethnic and multicultural.

A central battleground for the 1992 presidential election is the state of education in America. Democratic candidates are already scrambling to condemn the Bush administration's educational policies. Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton has advanced the most detailed agenda, calling for a national program for adult literacy, a national apprenticeship program for high school graduates who aren't going to college, and a financial loan program which would permit millions of additional low-to-middle income Americans to attend college. Nebraska Senator Bill Kerrey promises if elected to expand the availability of Head Start to all eligible low income children, and to expand federal expenditures for public schools.

Although these are certainly worthwhile goals, schools must also address the issues of racism and ethnic diversity, as part of the quest for excellence. This means more than changing the textbooks, or recruiting more people of color as teachers. We must rethink the entire process of learning to foster a multicultural environment and interracial dialogue.

Diversity is nourished in the classroom only when students are challenged to assume the identities of people who are different from themselves. Instead of perceiving things from one's traditional background, students should be asked to assume different roles and to learn the values, beliefs and perspectives of individuals from other religions, races, and language groups. When I have gone into my children's classes during African-American history month, I have organized small skits in which the subject content is racism. A row of chairs positioned at the head of the classroom becomes a "bus", and children are asked to act out the roles of the bus driver, passengers and the police. But I ask the students to pretend the year is 1955, the place is Montgomery, Alabama, and any white children in the room must "play" the role of African-Americans. By being personally placed in the symbolic position of being oppressed and "arrested" for sitting in "whites-only" bus seats, white children can begin to learn the pain and suffering generated by racism.

Racial prejudice, the greatest challenge to democracy, is not biologically fixed among whites; it is an oppressive behavior which is learned over time, and reinforced by the elaborate system of power and privilege which dominates over the lives of people of color. Students

(Continued next page.)

JUST THE PRESIDENT
by Ron Austin
Portrait time in the White House
In A bold Move, Mr. President Ignores the N.E.A. Controversy and Proceeds With the historical Painting
GAAAK!
That's... Not exactly what I had in mind!
EAT MY Cross Baby!
Oh YEAh- Sure, go ahead... Suppress me.
Ron Austin

OPAS
Olympia Pottery & Art Supply, Inc.
1822 W. Harrison
Olympia, WA 98502
943-5332

TCRC Thanks the Labor Education and Research Center

At our December monthly meeting, the membership of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition unanimously expressed support for the fine work done by Dan Leahy, Helen Lee and the Rosalie Gittings Labor Education and Research Center located at The Evergreen State College. Many of our members have personally benefitted from educational programs sponsored and organized by the Labor Center.

The article that Senator West is sniping about originally appeared in our newspaper, *Works in Progress*, July 1991. We ran the story then because it provided another perspective on so-called "free-trade" than the public has been spoon fed by our monolithic "mass media." We support Mr. Leahy's right *as fundamental*, to subscribe to *any* belief, and to write about his social vision to any audience both in his capacity as Labor Center Director and as a private citizen.

Senator West further attacks Mr. Leahy in a letter to a nurses' union saying "I cannot, in good conscience, tell the taxpayers of this state that their tax dollars are being used effectively *by a radical like Dan Leahy.*" We strongly protest this attack by the Senator based on Mr. Leahy's ideological vision that he does not share. Labelling Mr. Leahy as a "radical" may make the senator feel good, but it certainly does little to convince us that the Labor Center has done anything but excellent work in its young existence.

We are appalled that in the 1990's, a political McCarthyism still can emanate from those who purport to protect the public interest, while actually assaulting those who do not fit their moral litmus test of politics and "social responsibility." Senator West's letter is an affront to all free-thinking individuals, most of whom *pay taxes*, and we will continue to demand state support for a **fully-funded** Labor Education and Research Center.

You are invited to an evening of stimulating discussion and grassroots democracy

The Rainbow Coalition would like to remind you to attend your local precinct caucus meeting

Tuesday, March 3rd at 8 pm

Call the Thurston County Auditor's Office at 786-5408 for the location of your caucus

(Blueprint, cont.)

must be taught, therefore, that prejudice is not just the behavior of foolish or insane individuals. It is a system of oppression which still exists, despite the passage of civil rights laws.

What do we mean by racism as a "system of privilege?" It means that white students must be taught that a typical white male will probably pay significantly less for his automobile or home mortgage than if he was an American Indian, Chicano, or African-American. It means that a white high school graduate will earn more in his or her lifetime, on average, than a typical Black college graduate. Racism means access to a better quality of health care in white middle class neighborhoods than in the *barrio* or ghetto, so that the typical Black male dies before he can even collect Social Security. Most whites never think about the system of privilege from which they benefit personally and collectively, the system of institutional racism. The task of the educator is to make all students aware of this continuing reality, without paralyzing the white student into inaction with personal attacks.

The challenge of multicultural education requires a perspective which illustrates both diversity and unity as complimentary values. By this, I mean that we can recognize our distinctiveness and cultural originality, while also illustrating those elements of commonality. A social studies or humanities course could assign a unit on "comparative perspectives on birth and death", drawing examples from Native American, Latino, Asian-American, European and African-American cultures. The course could explore the wide variety of rituals, songs, dances and religious ideals in which various ethnic communities mark the births of children or the deaths of elders.

Multicultural mathematics could illustrate the Chinese and Arabic contributions to our understanding of math. A civics instructor could discuss the importance of Native American political systems and their model of confederation, which helped to shape our democratic system.

To uproot the hidden values of superiority which help to perpetuate racism, white students need to recognize that no single group has a monopoly on intelligence or creativity. Human beings may take different routes to reach similar goals and objectives. When white students and teachers are as familiar with the writings of W.E.B. Du Bois, Alice Walker, Toni Morrison and Martin Luther King, Jr., as they are with Mark Twain, Chaucer, and John Updike, we will truly begin to make strides toward a nonracist future.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of Political Science and History, University of Colorado, Boulder Colorado. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 200 publications, and is broadcast by over 35 radio stations internationally.

I AGREE WITH THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

A grassroots organization that works for the people the two political parties frequently ignore: peace activists, people of color, the differently-abled, union members, women, environmentalists, gays and lesbians, the homeless, the working poor, and other community people.

An organization that supports and encourages progressive electoral candidates. An organization that networks and works with others who have the same goals.

Join the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition and get involved.

Yes, I'm interested in joining the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition
❑ Enclosed is: $25; $10 low-income.
❑ Yes, I want to be involved in Rainbow activities. Give me a call.
(name) _____
(address) _____
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(issues of interest):

Send to: Thurston County Rainbow Coalition, P.O. Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507. For information call 943-1810 or 456-4773.

Yard Waste Collection and Composting Forum Slated For March 12

Help bring Olympia's yard waste problems down to earth! Come to a community forum on yard waste collection and composting programs slated for Thursday, March 12 at 7:00 pm at The Olympia Center, rooms 101 and 102. The forum, hosted by Olympia's citizen Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAK), will provide Olympia residents the opportunity to help the city design new programs to collect and compost yard waste now headed to the landfill. More than 35% or some 4000 tons a year of the garbage from Olympia households is food and yard waste.

Topics to be discussed at the forum include curbside yard waste collection, home composting programs and yard waste drop-off systems. Information on home composting will be available at the meeting and various home composting bins will be on display. Master Composters will be available to answer questions on home composting and a "Green Cone" and wire mesh composting bin will be raffled off at the forum.

For more information, call Peter Guttchen at 753-8360.

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Thoughts Out of School

The Scandal Of Commercial Television In School

William Ray Arney

Criticism is so easy nowadays. A commercial television outfit called Channel One TV offers to put televisions in any school that will show its ten-minute program every day. School districts all over the country have public discussions. Finally comes what seems to be the key question and the oh-so-predictable answer is: Yes, the program will have commercials, about two minutes each day. And everyone goes critical. Just imagine: Commercial television showing programs with commercials in the schools ! It's a scandal. The commercials, that is. Our kids shouldn't have to watch two minutes more of commercials every day, at least not in the schools. But that's what everyone in all the districts said. Especially the newspapers, those commercially supported organs of commercial criticism of our time. They said so and said so: No one should accept commercial television trying to show commercials, especially to children in the schools.

I watched Channel One for several hours as I supervised student teachers. The scandal is *not* that commercial television shows commercials. In fact, the commercials are the best part of Channel One. The scandal is the way the schools respond to this newest aspect of modern schooling. *The scandal is that almost no one in the schools responds at all to this new, advanced technology.*

I didn't see anything like a "sample" of Channel One TV. I only saw four programs, one each day I visited a student teaching a Washington State history class. The programs are aired at a time that allows the class to assemble, roll to be taken and the television sets to be turned on. In every instance, the moment the program ended the television sets were turned off and the lesson of the day began.

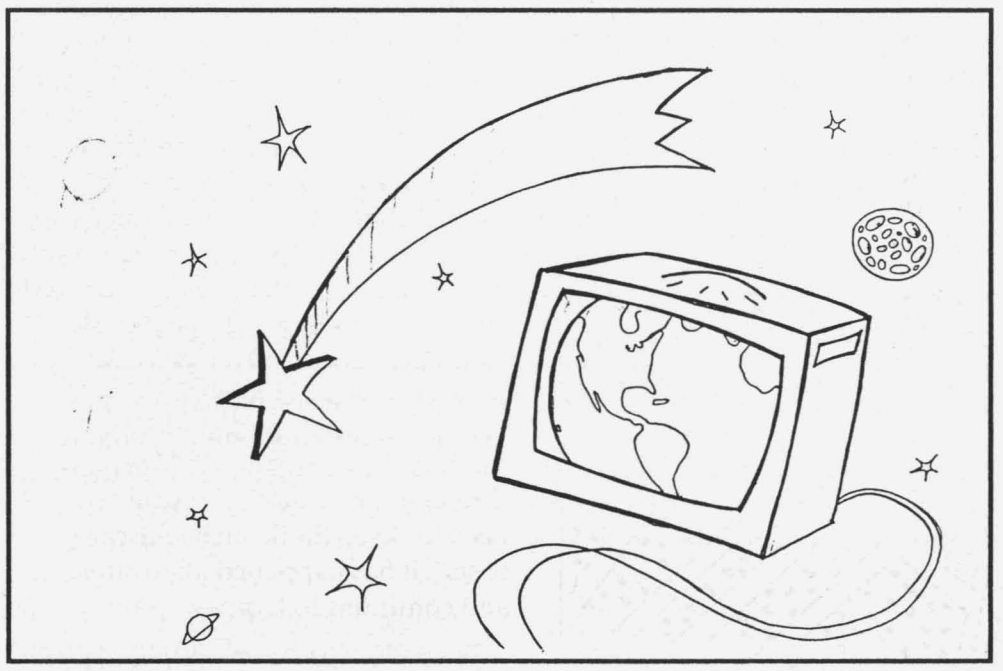
I happened to see one of the first programs of the 1991 academic year. It had a standard television news format but the reporter was a young, no doubt teenage woman. She introduced herself and the concept of Channel One to newcomers and then read some sort of lead into three minutes of world news and sports. The only difference between the evening news and these three minutes was that the news was intercut with educational "hits. " On this day Soviet tanks were rolling into one of the Baltic states. Instead of letting this headline news item develop from beginning to end, it was interrupted with a little history lesson on how the Baltic states became part of the Soviet Union. You could tell that this was the "educational" part of the program because the voice speaking over the graphics was a monotonous drone. It was exactly the voice that high school students might associate with "A History Lesson. " After this educational "hit," it was back to the tanks and on to a tennis match and over to something about a television star suffering some sort of something.

Then there were the commercials. One for M&Ms, one for Nike. More on that, as they say, in a moment.

Following the commercials, there was a special segment for the beginning of the school year: "New Faces on Channel One." For almost a minute, they showed, for a few seconds each, faces of the people who would be reporting for Channel One for the year. Just faces. No names, no indication of what each face might be reporting on ... Just faces--head shots. With one exception: One of the reporters was in a wheel chair. If they had shown just his face, no one would have known he was in a wheel chair. So, still without commentary of any sort, the camera begins with a long shot of this guy in his chair rolling down a ramp. Very quickly the camera zooms in and you get the head shot, his face, yet another "new face on Channel One." It was so obvious that Channel One was trying, by showing all these "new faces," to show that they had all the categories covered to be "politically correct." There were male faces and female faces and African-American faces and Asian faces and Native American faces and.... And you could just imagine Channel One's problem: How to show that we've got a "differently abled" face too? They worked it out.

Then it was over. Headline news, commercials, new faces, all with quick but smooth cuts from one to the other, and that was it. "All right, turn off the TVs, turn on the lights and turn to page 41 in your books." The teacher, the student I was observing, said nothing about what had just happened during the first fourth of his class. In fact, he hadn't really been watching Channel One. Like the students, he had other things to do, a lesson to think about, notes to make, forms to fill out. One can do lots of things while the TV is on. But then it was over and class could begin. "Take out your books.... " Another quick cut, perhaps less smooth--but this is a teacher still learning his craft.

Now, about those commercials. I liked them. So did almost all the students. I say that because, at least, they watched the commercials. (They tended not to watch the news stories, and the "new faces" segment didn't have anything to watch, except a few faces.) But the commercials were good to watch. They were so well done. Fascinating shapes and figures and movement and colors in the M&Ms commercial; Michael Jordon making good moves to good music ("I like Mike") that the five women in the front row sang with and moved to in the Nike commercial. The commercials were perfectly constructed for this narrow audience. The students paid attention, which showed that Channel One was doing very well what it was designed to do. The teacher had other things to do, and he continued to do them, even through the commercials.



Two other episodes of Channel One followed the world headline news and sports with segments on teenagers. One was about the changing nature of family configurations. One of the "new faces on Channel One" was out in some large city interviewing some actual teenagers about their actual living arrangements. Cut into these interviews with the teens were interviews with the experts. A sociologist talking about the "changing shape of the American family." A psychologist talking about "stress" caused by changes in families. Then back to the actual teenagers talking about their actual families and how their families changed from time to time and how much stress it caused them. Then there were statistics. So many percentage points live in families in which parents are married and so many percentage points live in families with divorced parents. Of that latter percentage, so many percentage points live with two parents, so many percentage points with one parent and 13% live with no parents. Cut to a young man who says something like, "That's right, I'm not living with either of them. . ., " then to a voice over saying, "So, more of us are spending more time alone, " and then more about stress and the difficulties of being a teenager nowadays. This brief minute or two of Channel One television was enough to keep any teacher interested in critical reasoning skills or in the use of statistics or in the relationship between expert pronouncement and real life experiences in business for several weeks. But this was a class in Washington State history, and while Channel One was on, the teacher had other things to do.

But so did the students. They showed very little interest in any of the "substance" on Channel One. With the bit on living arrangements of American teens," their behavior said, "We know how we are living. We have other things to do." And they talked to their friends and looked through their books and made notes and did all the other things that students do during the lulls in school. Besides, after a particularly engaging rendition of I like Mike, everything else must be a come down.

The absurdity of Channel One was put into high relief the following week. Following roll and the adjusting of the TV sets, there was the headline news and sports, then there were the commercials (including yet another reprise of "I like Mike"). And then there was a long segment on the representation of teenage boys on . . . what else? . . . television (with a politically correct promise of a segment in the spring on the representation of teenage girls on television) . So here it was- -so blatant that one would have to be beyond dead and well into the last stages of the "dust to dust" transition not to notice--the true scandal of Channel One television: Teenagers go to school to watch television that tells them about the representation of teenagers on television. The television and the class were like elements in an Escher drawing. Everything folded itself around and transmuted itself into something else and as long as you remained inside the frame, it all remained stable and made sense and you don't go crazy. But step just one millimeter outside the frame of the experience ... you'd have to spend a whole long time thinking about just what was going on and how anyone could ever think to do *that*.

But no one was paying attention. Well, almost no one. There was one fellow sitting in the front row. He seemed interested. I say that only because he spent a lot of time asking his classmates to be quiet so he could watch television. Then he appealed to the student teacher. "Mr. S, will you make them be quiet so we can watch television? But Mr. S had other things to do .

I talked to Mr. S later. "Why don't you say something? Why do you just turn on this Channel One and let it

The scandal is that almost no one in the schools responds at all to this new, advanced technology.

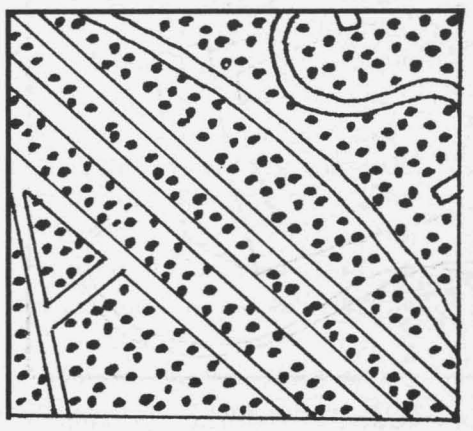
HIV/AIDS In the Workplace

All of Our Ways Must Change

Rich Davis

HIV/AIDS is the biggest challenge to our society this century, and will be into the next. It challenges our institutions of Church, State and Science. As people, it challenges every aspect of our lives. Our values. Our compassion. Our fears. Our prejudices. Our denial systems.

Many of the challenges we'll be facing will present themselves in the work place as well. As a Union and as individual workers we'll need



to examine and address these issues and find fair and compassionate solutions.

Discrimination and Harassment

From the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, people living with AIDS have been targets of discrimination and harassment. Fear and hysteria have sparked some of this, however, the major reason for it is a release of deeply rooted fear and prejudice toward gays, IV drug users and the poor.

The biggest mistake that was made at the beginning of this epidemic was labeling "risk groups" rather than identifying "risk behaviors". Risk group labels gave people justification and excuses to lash out and vent their fears and prejudices on these groups of people.

To this day it provides many with what I call terminal denial. As long as we continue to talk about *'those people'* and placate ourselves by believing "It won't happen to me. I'm not one of them", we run the risk of infection. Our denial, fear and prejudice keeps us from honestly examining whether we are participating in risky behavior or if someone we are sexually intimate with might be at risk.

There are far too many examples of workplace discrimination and harassment. Co-workers isolate or ostracize fellow employees and friends of many years once they find out they are HIV infected or have AIDS. Supervisors and employers summarily fire any employee who is infected. Whether this happens out of fear and prejudice, or is motivated by a perceived need to "keep the lid on health care costs", it has happened all to often and continues to happen today

Reasonable Accommodation

The *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) *of 1990*, includes HIV infection and AIDS as legal disabilities. People with HIV/AIDS are a protected group. Discrimination or harassment toward anyone who has HIV/AIDS is illegal. The ADA also provides that reasonable accommodation be made when offering employment or for continued employment. When a person living with AIDS needs reasonable accommodation it's likely it won't look like what we traditionally think of as reasonable accommodation, like wheelchair ramps or specially designed desks and fixtures. The needs that a person living with AIDS will have most likely will center around reduced strength and energy. Management will have to be imaginative and creative in providing reasonable accommodation. Some options are: flex-time, telecommuting, job sharing, and transferring or voluntary demotion to another job that is less physically and/or emotionally demanding.

There are many jobs within any organization. Some require regular and set hours to accommodate the public. Some require no public contact and can be accomplished anytime and anywhere during the day. Some are physically, emotionally and/or mentally demanding. Others are not.

There has been far too many cases where reasonable accommodation has not even been tried. HIV infected people are being fired on the grounds of no longer being able to fulfill the job requirements without management ever looking within the organization itself for an alternative position.

Health Care

Health Care benefits have always been an important issue for the union. The HIV/AIDS epidemic has only sharpened the importance of the debate.

AIDS to a degree has become a chronic disease. It's still fatal—but people who get infected can expect about 10 good years after becoming infected—*if they can afford the health care*. The cost of the treatments and drugs that have been developed for HIV/AIDS are astronomical. A person could well use up their life time limit of health care benefits before they ever get seriously sick.

And therein lies the Catch 22. For a person living with AIDS to have as long and productive and healthy a life as possible, they need these expensive treatments and drugs. If they don't have health care benefits or have already used them up their only option is to lose everything financially so that they can qualify for Medicaid and Social Security benefits.

This situation isn't unique to AIDS. There are many people who have costly health care problems and/or no insurance who have encountered this Catch 22. The HIV epidemic has only refocused and sharpened the debate on health care costs and accessibility. The United States is the only western industrialized nation in the world which doesn't control health care costs, doesn't provide some form of universal health care, and doesn't have a coordinated comprehensive plan for dealing with the AIDS epidemic. In fact, other than technology the United States ranks poorly on most health care and public health issues, sometimes even behind Third World countries.

The biggest mistake that was make at the beginning of this epidemic was labeling "risk groups" rather than identifying "risk behaviors".

Emotional

For people living with HIV/AIDS the labor issues involve everything I have mentioned previously. Being free from discrimination, having reasonable accommodations made and having adequate health care benefits. But there is one more thing. Self esteem. It's kind of like preaching to the choir to talk to union members about the importance to the self esteem gained by people through productive labor. 'Honest pay for honest labor' and 'Worth through work' have always been touchstones for labor unions.

The self esteem gained by being a productive and contributing member of society is generally accepted as a contributing factor to the continued health of HIV infected people. How we feel directly affects our health. Likewise it is generally accepted that when a HIV infected person loses their job because of discrimination or the lack of reasonable accommodations that it will more than likely adversely impact their health by increased stress and lowered self esteem.

Ironically, the first prescription for most people who are diagnosed with HIV disease is to lower their stress levels. Being concerned about or actually losing your job because your boss found out you are HIV infected makes it impossible to fill that prescription. There are too many people who are HIV infected whose health rapidly deteriorated for no good medical reason, but simply because they lost their job.

Co-Workers

Most people define the community they belong to as (at least in part) the people they work with. The acceptance of co-workers is extremely important for someone who is HIV infected. They need to have a work environment that is accepting and tolerant of not only a changing health condition but accepting and tolerant of their life style. This is what makes HIV/AIDS a diversity in the work place issue.

Co-workers need to be supportive of not only the physical but the emotional needs of the HIV infected worker. Continue to include the person living with HIV/AIDS in activities during and after work that are normal for your group; realizing that they may decline because of reduced energy. The invitation itself will affirm your acceptance. Listen to their concerns and fears but don't try and become their doctor and therapist. Try and show by your actions you accept them as a co-worker and friend. Be ,sent to their needs when they present themselves.

Conclusion

You very likely are working in an organization where someone is already HIV infected. If they know they are infected they probably haven't said anything to anyone out of fear of the reaction of their employer and co-workers.

As co-workers, as union members, and as a Union, we need to create a work environment and public policy where it is safe for HIV infected people to let others know they are infected. An environment where employers and co-workers are concerned about that person and how to keep them working as one as it is physically possible. An environment where health care isn't a concern and discrimination and reasonable accommodations aren't an issue.

For more information on HIV/AIDS you can contact:
Thurston County Health Dept 786-5581
Olympia AIDS Taskforce 352-2375
Washington State AIDS Hotline1-800 272-2437

Rich Davis is a Lacey resident and Local 443 member who works for the Department of Labor & Industries in Olympia. He is a Factor 8 hemophiliac who is HIV infected (Stage II). Rich is married to Megan and has two daughters Gwen and Georgia. Rich involved in a number of local, state and national hemophilia and HIV/AIDS organizations.

(Scandal, cont.)

run for ten minutes and shut it off and tell them to open their books and not say anything?" "Because that's what the contract says." "Huh?" "The contract says we have to leave it on for the whole ten minutes. In fact, they have timers on the TVs to make sure that they are on for the whole ten minutes. " "But I was asking why you don't say anything about the content, about the way things are presented, about.... " "It's because I've got other things to do. Besides, they don't watch it anyway." "Oh. Okay."

As I think about it, it may be more right than I thought to say criticism is so easy nowadays. To say that almost no one in the school where I did my observations responds to the material on Channel One TV is perhaps the easiest criticism of all. After all, who responds to anything on television anyway?

Bill Arney is faculty at The Evergreen State College.

The Democrats' HighFive

Looking at the Front Men

Dr. Lenora Fulani

Dr. Fulani, candidate for U.S. President, recently qualified for federal matching funds having raised the third highest amount of all candidates running. She has repeated asked for and been denied access to Democratic Presidential debates.

The American economy and its inseparable companion American democracy are in a shambles today. The question that must be asked — wh ich none of the so-called major candidates dare to ask — is: how did this happen? How did America wind up a second-rate economic power to Japan and Germany? How did the democracy of the founding fathers wind up as the closed and PAC-controlled men's club it is to day? Who assassinated America? It's a disturbing question. The answer is even more disturbing. It's because I dare to ask that question and because I dare to have an answer to it that the so-called Big Five and their handlers are so concerned to keep me out of the public eye.

Of my five "major" opponents, former Senator Tsongas has given the most serious thought to the economy. He has made his pamphlet, "A Call To Economic Arms," the centerpiece of his campaign. The central point of his pamphlet — and his economic thinking — is the need for America to restore its industrial manufacturing base. He points out that America today only has 17% of its total workforce in manufacturing, down from 26% two decades ago. One-third of the German and 28% of the Japanese workforce is engaged in manufacturing, which he identifies as the source of their economic strength. He calls the decline in America's manufacturing capacity over the last two decades "our collective kryptonite."

"An ever less competitive manufacturing base inevitably means cataclysmic erosion of our standard of living," he repeats wherever he goes.

I fully agree with the former Senator from Massachusetts that America needs more manufacturing jobs, that we need an economy based o n production, not speculation. An economy that produces things that people need and want, not one in which the Ivan Boeskys of the world can buy stock at 2:00 P.M., sell it at 3:00 P.M. and make a billion dollar killing without making a product or a service or a job that anyone can use or have. The serious question is how can that be accomplished.

Paul Tsongas' proposal is to expand and deepen the corporatist state, to use the federal government — and our tax money — to bankroll and subsidize general industrial production as it has the military and money industries since World War II. He calls on the government to invest directly in industries with technologies which could expand our manufacturing capability. In the same vein he calls for vast increases in the funding that goes to the national Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Energy and so on. The government, he says, should pay for researching those areas that can be used by big business. He would also provide tax cuts to corporations which engage in research and development. He maintains that, "There will be no manufacturing sector without a powerful basic and applied research capability." He would essentially do away with our corporate anti-trust laws, which he argues are antiquated and hobble corporate America in its competition with super-corporate Japan and super-corporate Germany. "We have to allow our companies to muscle up," he says.

It is only through the deregulation of democracy that we can begin the reconstruction of the American economy.

These proposals however, cannot work for the simple reason that they have nothing to do with the redistribution of wealth. Mr. Tsong as argues that, "There is today one glaring truth. You cannot redistribute wealth that is never created." But the esteemed former Senator confuses the horse and the cart and thus misses the problem entirely. The basic economic and political fact in America today is the current distribution of wealth is inconsistent with a growth economy. The vast numbers of Americans — white and Black — who are unemployed, underemployed and living in poverty make recovery impossible — they are unable to buy even the necessities of life. A population capable of buying goods and services is the basis of any healthy manufacturing economy. As poverty increases in and becomes endemic to America, the chances of reviving the economy grow ever slimmer. The inability of the poor to buy goods and services creates a situation in which the economic elite makes its money by skimming everything off the top while economic development collapses. That's exactly what we've seen for the last twelve years — as this recession slides into depression, the stock market is booming. There just can't be real growth with the current distribution of wealth, and you can't do anything about the redistribution of wealth without real democracy — a truly operative democracy that gives the ordinary people of America the power to make the policy decisions which affect their lives and those of their children — including decisions about what should be produced and how to produce it. Americans are economically poor; if we are also politically poor, there is no hope for revival.

The professional politicians and the big money interests they, in most cases, work for, got theirs and left the ordinary people of America holding the bag.

Senator Tsongas, misidentifying the cause of the economic crisis, misses the cure as well. Not even the word "democracy" is to be found anywhere in the Senator's proposals. In fact, he openly argues for accelerating the transformation of the U.S. government into a coordinating body for the country's largest corporations. His proposals add up to less democracy, turning the U.S. government over completely to the corporate elite who got us into this mess in the first place. The Senator writes in his little book that "a marriage" of the Democratic Party with corporate America "is essential." Thomas Jefferson is turning over in his grave.

None of my other opponents have come up with proposals as thorough as those of Senator Tsongas, and in most cases their "economic programs" consist of little more than a list of slogans. There is, none the less, something to be learned from the examination of slogans.

Governor Clinton, to the extent that he has articulated his ideas on the economy at all, shares with Senator Tsongas the premise that the government should be used to stimulate the development of new technologies. Ever the bureaucrat, the Governor would set up a n ew agency to, in his words, "provide basic research for new and critical technologies and make it easier to move these ideas into the marketplace." Beyond that, Mr. Clinton calls for creating what he calls "jumpstart economic demand." The cornerstone of this hot-s ounding plan is "accelerate the spending schedule for the five year highway bill." He argues that repairing and building highways faster will create 200,000 jobs and actually make a significant difference in what the American people as a whole will be able to buy; thus echoing the economic proposals of one Benito Mussolini, another liberal-turned-conservative in this extraordinary century.

The other two items on Mr. Clinton's economic agenda are 1) making it easier for people to get mortgages by placing a higher ceiling on Federal Housing Administration mortgage guarantees; and 2) offering a $350 per year tax cut to what he calls "middle class" families. (Clinton calls everyone "middle class." I think he thinks it makes everyone feel better.)

While Clinton's slogans are, at best, feeble stabs in the direction of redistribution, it's hard to take seriously a "plan" that relies on building highways to reverse the decay of the American economy. It's a fast road to nowhere because, like Senator Tsongas, Governor Clinton makes no connection between the revival of the economy and the revival of democracy. Building highways is all well and good, but it leaves all the power — political and economic — just where it's been all along, in the hands of the permanent Big Government that murdered America.

The other so-called "majors" have even less to say about America's economic crisis. In recent weeks Senator Kerrey has reduced his economic commentary to Japan-bashing. Calling President Bush "too gentle" on the Japanese and demanding that "America fight back," the Democratic Party's would-be Rambo is resorting, in typical Cold War fashion, to blaming this country's problems on someone else. Put as many trade restrictions on Japan as you will, unless there is a serious revival of the U.S. economy at home — which, as I have pointed out, requires a radical redistribution of the economic and political wealth — these restrictions don't amount to a hill of beans. Trade agreements are about the distribution of goods; but first you have to have goods to trade.

Beyond that, Mr. Kerrey's economic thoughts are rather contradictory and have more to do with tinkering with government bureaucracy than with taking on the realities of America's economy. On the one hand the junior senator from Nebraska would cut the number of Cabinet departments in half and reduce the number of Congressional committees and subcommittees by 75% — supposedly to reduce the deficit.

On the other hand (and often in the same breath he calls for the creation of a new agency — a civilian equivalent of the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to research technology for big business (sound familiar?).

Governor Brown's pronouncements on the economy are no less contradictory and no less vapid. He calls for a "flat tax" of about 14% on all incomes (doing away with the very premise of a progressive income tax requiring those who make more to pay a higher percentage) and in addition, he calls for the creation of so-called "enterprise zones" which would allow big business whole chunks of the nation in which they would have to pay virtually no taxes at all. On top of all that the former California Governor says, and I quote, "The problem is we are wasting energy everywhere we look," and calls for "retrofitting buildings, replacing lights, [and] inventing new motors."

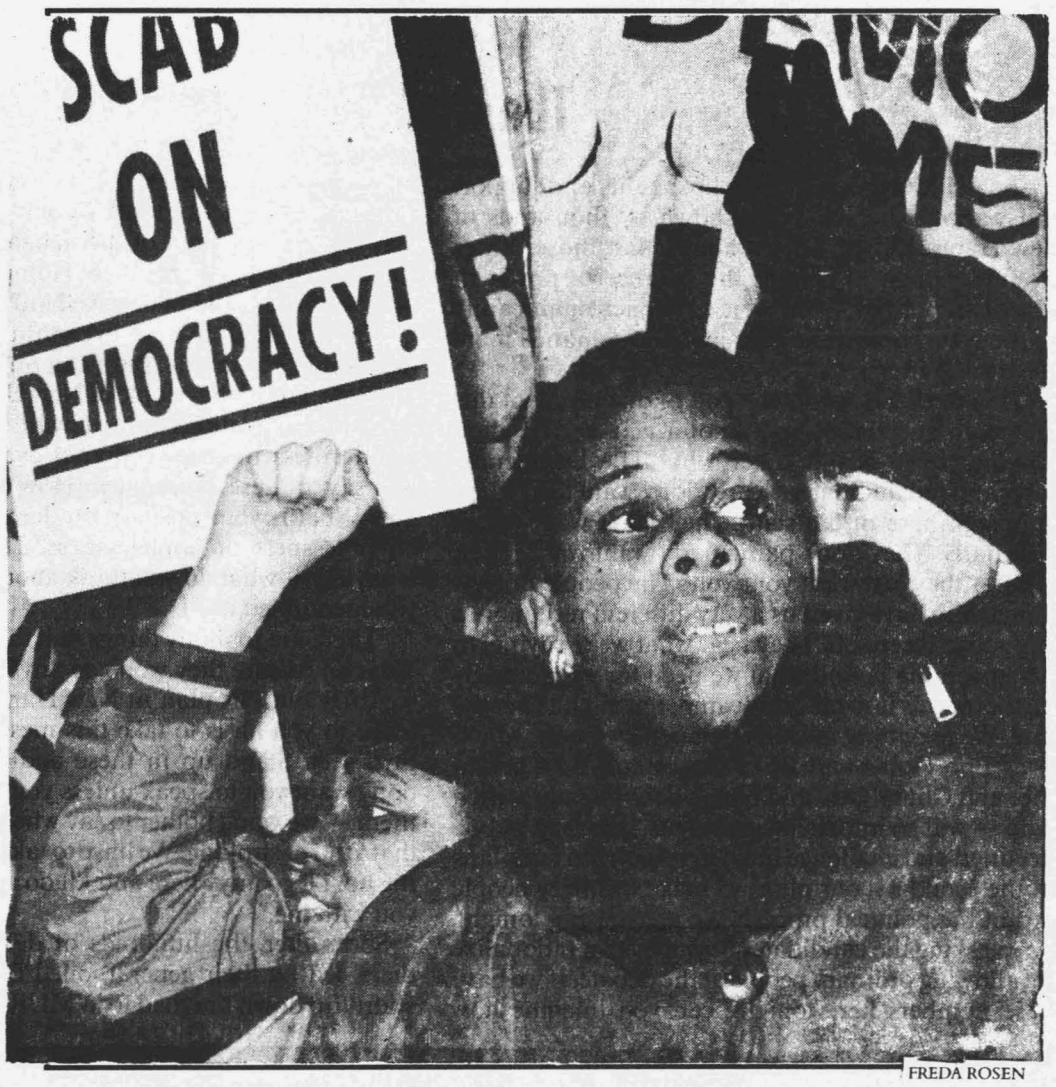
Senator Harkin has even less to say on the economy. I understand that the 17-year veteran of the Senate has just come out with a pamphlet on the economy called "A Blueprint for America." I'm looking forward to reading it and can only hope that it's an improvement on his vague rhetoric about "investing in America" and "competing in the world market by selling high quality products at high

enough margins to pay high wages." The Senator's suspender-snapping, sincere-as-a-corncob-pipe style notwithstanding, Mr. Harkin has so far remained mute on how he plans to achieve any of these things.

None of my "major" opponents has much to say about how we wound up in this mess, how it is that our industrial manufacturing base has shrunk so dramatically, how America has become a second-rate economic power. Yet any serious attempt to work our way out of this c ollapse must include an understanding of how we got here. Predictably, the Democratic "majors" blame the Reagan/Bush administration and so-called supply side trickle-down economics. This finger-pointing conveniently leaves out the active complicity of the Democratic Party and of those leaders of the Democratic Party in implementing every one of the Reagan/Bush administration's pro-rich, anti-poor policies. Reaganomics would not have been possible without the cooperation of the Democratic-controlled Congress. That's a historical reality which none of my opponents will touch with a ten-foot pole. But the cover-up goes much further than that. While Reagan's economic policies clearly accelerated the collapse, the dry rot of the American economy began much, much earlier than that.

As any half-honest economist or historian will tell you, what got us out of the Great Depression of the 1930's was not FDR's New Deal but the vast industrial expansion that came with World War II. And what kept it artificially pumped up for thirty years afterwards — while at the same time literally destroying our manufacturing base — was a massive economic restructuring of the United States and the world which was put into place with bi-partisan support. That restructuring was based on two things. First was the conversion of the economy to a permanent wartime footing. Utilizing the now clearly bogus threat of the Soviet Union (and everyone knew it was bogus, even then), the U.S. government became the permanent sugar daddy of the so-called "defense" industry. From 1950-1951 alone, the U.S. military budget jumped from $14 billion to $34 billion. And as we all know, that was just the beginning of the endless spiral of military spending. The problem with this, of course (besides the constant pull toward war that it engendered) was that military production is dead-end production. It produces nothing that leads to further production, nothing that contributes to the development of the economy. It produces tools for killing people which are sold primarily to dictators around the world and are only used by the U.S. in the periodic wars and invasions staged, in part, to justify further military production. The military is a rust-producing industry and it has rotted our economy at its very core. A handful of corporate lords have, with huge government subsidies, made trillions of dollars off military production while the production of quality peacetime goods that people need and want in order to lead decent lives had been abandoned. It was just not as profitable and risk-free as endless Pentagon contracts.

The second major element of the post-World War II restructuring of the economy was the Bretton Woods Agreement, which tied the value of the world's currencies to the U.S. dollar. Cutting the value of money totally free from silver or gold opened vast opportunities to U.S. speculators. If your government controls the value of the paper on the market, it gives your paper traders one hell of an advantage. Truly incredible amounts of money have been made



FREDA ROSEN

through the buying and selling of money, with a resulting exodus of capital from manufacturing and other productive enterprises. Like military production, speculation is non-productive and non-developmental. Therein lies the decline of the American manufacturing economy.

This restructuring was not an accident. The economy is not a natural phenomenon; it is the conscious activity of human beings making choices about how and what to produce. And the decisions made by the Republicans and Democrats over the past 40 years have resulted in the death of the American economy. The Republicans and Democrats sold out our futures and those of our children. The professional politicians and the big money interests they, in most cases, work for, got theirs and left the ordinary people of America holding the bag.

What happened is the assassination of the American economy — as real and as profound as the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. That is something none of my opponents will speak about. They won't speak about it because they can't — their party is up to its neck in the planning and the execution of this assassination. And they, as professional front men for that organization, are unindicted co-conspirators.

That is why saving America's economy is synonymous with saving America's democracy. You see, when they restructured the economy — how and what we produce — in the late 40s and early 50s, they simultaneously restructured our democracy in ways that made it almost impossible for dissident and independent voices to be heard and effectively iced ordinary people out of the political process.

The Cold War against the threat-that-never-was was used not only to justify astronomical government subsidies to the military industry, but to virtually wipe out political opposition to the assassins who had seized the government. That's what the execution of the Rosenbergs, the Smith Act and the hearings of McCarthy's Internal Security Committee and the House Unamercian Activities Committee in the 1950s were all about. In addition to the social and cultural hysteria of the McCarthy repression came the introduction of restrictive ballot access laws by states across the nation. These laws made it nearly impossible for third party or independent candidates to get on the ballot. A two-party monopoly of the political process was totally institutionalized. And with both of those parties fundamentally committed to big business and its on-going rape and murder of the American economy, there has been no way to bring the killers to justice.

That's why I am today issuing a call for the deregulation of democracy. There is no more monopolized and regulated industry in the United States of America than politics.

The founding fathers of this nation had a profound fear of political parties. Despite the severe limitations of the American Revolution in terms of its initial restrictions on the participation of the poor, of African Americans, and women, the founders of our nation knew what democracy was. They knew very well that the establishment of parties would turn democracy into a business. That's why there is no mention of political parties in the U.S. Constitution. That's why George Washington in his farewell address to the nation warned against them, that's why Jefferson worked so vigorously to prevent their getting a foothold in national politics. However, the founding father failed in their attempts to maintain an open, unregulated democracy and today we live in a Jeffersonian nightmare.

It's only by deregulating democracy and breaking up the political monopoly that ordinary people can regain control of the American political process and of our economy. The decisions that need to be made to redistribute the nation's wealth and retool its manufacturing base will not be made by the Republican and Democrats and the PACs which foot the bill.

By deregulating democracy, I'm not talking about lobbying more for the poor or labor or the African American community. I'm not talking about electing more women or more Blacks to office with the same old Democratic or Republican politics. I'm talking about a U.S. Congress and state legislatures and city halls in which insurgents and independents hold enough seats to impact on the issues that affect our lives. I'm talking about a Congress that is not totally under the thumb of the PACs. I'm talking about the abolition of restrictive ballot access laws, and universal and automatic voter registration. I'm talking about televised debates that are open to all significant candidates and about equal time of advertising provided free to all significant candidates. I'm talking about the democracy of Sam Adams, Tom Paine and Thomas Jefferson, not the democracy of Tammany Hall, Richard Daley and Chris Spirou.

We've all been convinced (by those in office, of course) that we should vote for winners. But at this point in history, given the highly regulated nature of our democracy, the only ones who can win are those who have destroyed our economy and crippled our democracy — America's killers. The American people know how to root — win or lose — for a hometown team. We have to learn to do that with politics as well — to vote for someone not because she or he will win this time around, but because it's the right thing to do, be cause doing so is part of a building process that will, over the long haul, turn our nation around. We have to get much better at using our votes as tools. If you vote for a winner in this election you're voting for a murderer of your family, your community, your country.

Don't throw your vote away on the assassins of America.

Fulani's field organizer in Washington State is Harriet Hoffman of the New Alliance Party in Seattle. (206) 329-9540.

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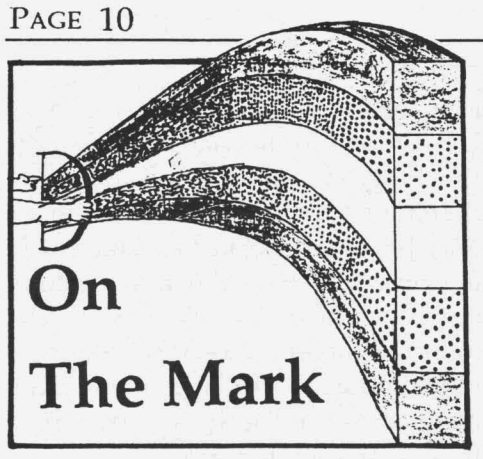


The U S Communist Party Is Beginning To Unravel

Dave Jette

Last December 6-8, the Communist Party U.S.A. held its national convention in Cleveland, and out of this fractious meeting emerged two groupings claiming the heritage of the CPUSA. The majority faction - at least the majority there, for it was in fact a stacked convention - held true to its unrepentant Stalinism and elected a national leadership completely subservient to Party chair Gus Hall. Not only were all dissidents removed from any leadership positions previously held, but many were prevented even from attending the convention as elected delegates.

Not only were all dissidents removed from any leadership positions previously held, but many were prevented even from attending the convention as elected delegates.

The convention had been preceded by a period of intense debate, with dissidents (representing perhaps one-third of the Party's roughly 3000 members) raising basic questions about internal democracy, adherence to long-held tenets of "Marxism-Leninism", and objectively racist practice, to name but a few. In response, at the rigged convention the CPUSA leadership vilified its opponents as "traitors", "enemies within", and "viruses", especially targeting African-American delegates who opposed them.

The minority faction in turn met across the street from the heavily guarded (by the Cleveland police!) convention and created a network called the "Committees of Correspondence". The Committees, a loose structure still in the process of evolution, aims to work with CPUSA members and others on the left to "renew the struggle for social progress and socialism, and put an end to the undemocratic practices that have caused so much damage to the Marxist and Communist movement". In fact, it will serve as an initial organizational means for regroupment of members of the CPUSA looking to transcend their heritage of Stalinism.

But what should it matter to activists concerned with building a truly liberated society, that the CPUSA is now undergoing this fundamental rupture? Through its longstanding strict adherence to the policies and ideology of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union - itself until its recent collapse one of the major bulwarks of oppression in the world - the CPUSA has placed itself on the other side of the barricades, regardless of the best intentions of its members. Many social activists in the U.S. are turned off to Marxism precisely because of what they have observed in practice by the CPUSA (as well as by the myriad smaller revolutionary Marxist sects running around loose). Does it really matter whether the "good guys" in the Party succeed in pulling out of this noxious organization those who are open to self-transformation?

But in fact it does matter! The dam has burst, and there is now open the possibility that the many dedicated CPUSA members, presently on both sides in this struggle, will come to reject what has been so bad in the Party and start to work closely with other activists in pursuit of a completely democratic, socialist society. This certainly is the intention of the Committees of Correspondence, and now that the veil of unchallengeable authority has been lifted from the present CPUSA leadership, there will be no turning back for many in the Party in transforming their own ideology. It is of vital importance for us to understand what is now going on in the CPUSA, and to welcome those Party members who choose to come over to our side.

Crossroads Magazine

CrossRoads is a very interesting example of what can come out of the pro-Soviet Left, once Stalinist ideology has been transcended. It originated in a split within the national communist organization Line of March, along lines similar to those presently unfolding in the CPUSA. In that case, there was fully democratic debate within the organization, and the majority decided to reject their Stalinist heritage and to try to reach out to other socialists. They regrouped themselves into the Frontline Political Organization, and published Frontline newspaper for a time, but finally decided to seek to further broad Left regroupment with publication of *CrossRoads*.

With the recent election of a new Board of Directors comprised of activists of widely varied political backgrounds, *CrossRoads* has now become the "property" of a much broader segment of the U.S. Left. Its statement of purpose well reflects this new breadth:

CrossRoads is published to promote a candid appraisal of new realities; to foster dialogue on the U.S. left; to push forward the development of effective strategies for progressive and socialist activism. *CrossRoads* aims to provide a forum for the re-examination of long-held Marxist tenets and the revitalization of Marxist thought. *CrossRoads* will cover the full range of struggles for peace, equality, democracy, social justice and protection of the environment, while editorially stressing the centrality of anti-racism, internationalism and democracy to building a popular movement rooted in U.S. realities.

I should like to urge all readers to subscribe to *CrossRoads*, at $24/year. Their address is P.O. Box 2809, Oakland, CA 94609. What is especially interesting is the January issue, available for $4.00 (including postage). It features in-depth reporting on the CPUSA convention, as well as on the convention of the Democratic Socialists of America held in Chicago November 8-11. (This event was also of major importance for the U.S. Left, but we can't go into it in this month's column.)

Interviews With CPUSA Dissidents

In the January issue of *CrossRoads* are published some poignant interviews with CPUSA dissidents who set up the Committees of Correspondence, and we shall quote here the response of Virginia Proctor to the question, how did things within the CPUSA get to the present point? (Ms. Proctor, who was denied her rightful delegate seat at the convention, has been a member of the CPUSA for 51 years.)

"I blame myself. I blame those of my generation who allowed it to occur, who quietly questioned, in pillow talk, our comrade-mate about events that were happening that seemed to be over our heads. So many things seemed to be off the wall and yet we did not fight. Something happened in this organization; we called it discipline: 'I'm a disciplined communist.' What it meant was I shut up. And it's strange because I could get up on a union floor surrounded by goons and be fearless. I could be beaten by cops and be fearless. But I would get up on the floor of a national committee meeting with fear and trembling, with voice trembling, tears on my cheeks, in fear that I am not saying the proper thing."

"I've been puzzling about how we allowed ourselves to do that. How did we lose our courage among our comrades? There was no falsehood about our love for one another and for our leadership. It's obvious now that love was not reciprocated. Something corrupts people; something corrupts those who would entrench themselves in an organization, any organization. I don't say that it's inevitable; I just say it's a reality."

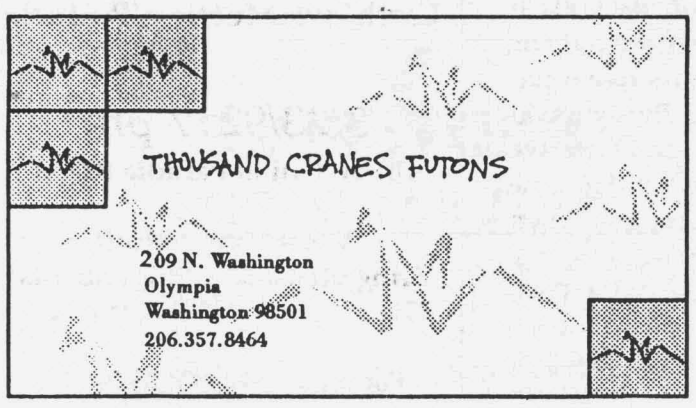
Finally, let us look at a position paper by two dissidents, identified as Sharon and Melodi, which was circulated among the convention delegates forming the Committees of Correspondence. (These and other excerpts from that paper were also published in the January issue of *CrossRoads*.) This paper well demonstrates the positive potential of this new network:

"We need to move away from sectarianism. There are many, many, honest and healthy forces on the left who are turned off to the CPUSA, the way it is presently constructed. We need to dialogue and WORK WITH these trade unionists and independent left forces and see what the possibilities are for a more formal and serious political relationship. The CPUSA does not hold all the answers anymore."

"We need to be rooted in mass organizations as equals and not as elitists."

"Although some in the organization will remain "in" until they die, we are of the tendency that feels the Party can NOT be reformed from its Stalinist heritage and present levels of corruption, nepotism and cronyism. The Party needs to be replaced by a progressive organization run on democratic socialist principles. We need to take the best and most progressive traditions and principles from activists in the CPUSA, DSA, *CrossRoads*, Rainbow Coalition, Democratic Party, the labor movement, the civil rights movement, etc. and build an organization that is capable of recruiting tens of thousands and speaking to millions (for real!)."

Dave Jette is a regular contributor to Works In Progress.



Review of *Canticle to the Cosmos*

Exploring the Physical and Spiritual Aspects of the Universe

Susanne Anders

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Olympia recently completed their first viewing of Canticle to the Cosmos, a 12-part video-lecture series. This series is the work of Brian Swimme, PhD, a specialist in mathematical cosmology. He has synthesized current knowledge in the sciences and from our sacred traditions to present the scientific story of the universe with a feeling for its sacred nature and, building on this, offers imperatives for how to live today and considers solutions to our environmental crises. Brian is currently Director of the Center for The Story of the Universe, at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco.

Drawn to view the series by the promised mix of science, spirituality and the environment, I found Brian Swimme's presentations to be thought provoking and inspiring. A fellow viewer described Brian as what Carl Sagan would be like if he were a surfer. Not a big budget production with stunning visuals such as the famous *Cosmos* series enjoyed, we view mostly Brian lecturing to students at the Institute for Culture and Creation Spirituality at Holy Names College in Oakland, California.

Brian's use of metaphors and imagery more than make up for the sparse visuals and contribute to the enjoyment and understanding of some difficult concepts. His language is rich and descriptive; one of the treats with this series is being allowed to use your own imagination to picture what is being said for yourself.

Brian begins with talking about where we are: the universe, the solar system, the earth. Einstein's revelation that the universe is expanding means that the universe is evolving, developing as a unity. Brian's own sense of awe for the creative event that continues to shape our world is almost palpable to the viewers. He talks about how if the rate of expansion of the universe were altered just slightly in either direction, we wouldn't be here now. A common religious teaching is that the universe is decaying; that God left and it all went downhill from there. This is scientifically untrue. The universe is not decaying, but continues to create along with us. The universe activates, reflects upon itself and celebrates itself in conscious self-awareness through the human being.

Brian's cosmology, which will orient us to our task in the world today, is built on three basic laws of the universe: differentiation, subjectivity, and communion. That which promotes these three are beneficial to the universe; that which does not is harmful. Differentiation is the idea that everything is different from every other thing. Subjectivity means that everything has an inside, an interior reality, hiding and revealing itself simultaneously. Communion is that everything is related to everything else, creating an interdependent web. If any one of these is removed, the universe collapses.

The three cosmological imperatives that follow from these are: 1) Differentiation: our task is to identify who we are. The greatest contribution is to be different from everyone else. 2) Subjectivity: we must develop sensitivity to the universe and others' experience. 3) Communion: not only with other human beings, but with other species as well.

Brian talks about our poisoning the water, soil and the extinction of species. A particularly sobering thought is that we are sprinkling genetic toxins into our environment, damaging the DNA. Chemicals go right to the center of the cell to the DNA and disrupt its elegance. When the DNA is altered, intelligence and information is lost. Witness the genetic defects in humans and other species around the Hanford nuclear site. Brian gives a word of caution to the world's religions. If DNA is damaged and changed, there will be no spirituality whatsoever; the eyes of the universe will be gone. None of our insights or scriptures will matter or be awakened in genetically defective humans. We are the Great Destroyers.

Three guidelines proposed are: 1) In terms of renewable resources, you can only take what the region can support, the carrying capacity of the region. 2) All non-renewable resources have to be recycled 100%. 3) The waste cannot be more than the region can absorb. Sound harsh? It has to happen! Third world countries must devote their land to growing their own food. We must give up the colonial system. The bioregion, the local people will be self-governing. I find it encouraging that in Thurston county we are discussing what it would mean to be a sustainable community.

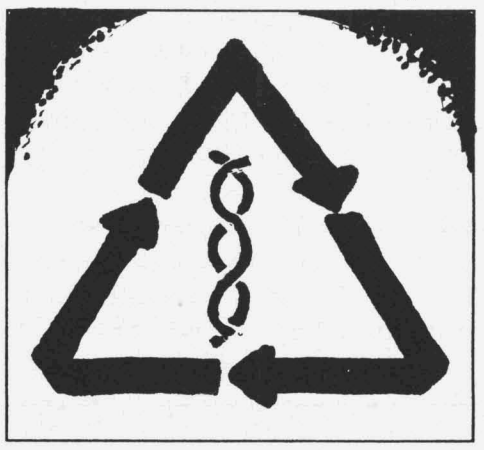
Einstein said that "the significant problems we face can not be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them."

Creativity always comes in response to a stressor. Brian explains resistance and obstacles to our desire and how an enemy provokes creativity. Typically, industrial society strives to eliminate resistance or to ignore it. Thus, the nuclear arms buildup in response to our "enemy", the Soviet Union and the accompanying public apathy for years to not do anything to change it.

When we work outside or against the grain of the universe, waste and exhaustion follow. When it was time to create galaxies, there was an effortlessness to it. The energy came forth in abundance. If the universe had tried to do this at another time say in the primeval fireball, it wouldn't have worked, it would be like having a Christmas tree ornament inside a tornado. Einstein said that "the significant problems we face can not be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them." So that if we try to proceed as we have in the past, our work may evaporate.

This is a time for great changes. Conditions are right and if the opportunity is not taken now, it will be too late further on down the road. We are in a universe on the edge. Because of this every small ripple makes a tremendous impact.

Although billed as each one hour video being complete in itself, Brian does build his cosmology with each presentation. Some viewers, with a more extensive scientific background, found Brian to be straying from the practice of good science. Brian presents facts about the universe and then draws conclusions and imperatives from these facts. The criticism was that these conclusions do not necessarily follow from the scientific facts presented.



A study guide with a summation of each video, discussion questions and process exercises is also available. There was a mixed reaction to this guide. Some found it helpful. Negative comments about the questions and exercises were that it assumed that one had already accepted Brian's theses as true, and did not provide a format for critically examining these.

I would recommend this series to be viewed by churches, synagogues and other places of worship as well as by social action groups and individuals. This series cuts across theological and philosophical differences and may be a factor in promoting a respect and appreciation for one another and the universe in which we live and create in.

This series will be repeated by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Olympia. Call 786-6383 M-F from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. to enter your name to a list to be called as the time is arranged. The series is also available for purchase from Friends of Creation Spirituality, P.O. Box 19216, Oakland, California 94619. 510/482-4984

Support Boycott

On Tuesday, February 18th, we the members of Local 443 formally adopted a resolution in support of the boycott against the Urban Onion and all other commercial operations owned by Elyse and Steve Harrington.

We encourage our members and our community to support the Urban Onion workers and to not patronize the restaurant or Elysia's Potpourri until a union contract is negotiated.

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For more info call 357-8779

The Bovine Growth Hormone Boycott

Let's Make Milk Pure Again

Zachary D. Lyons

"The use of Bovine Growth Hormone (BGH) will destroy consumer confidence in milk and dairy products, will push family farmers out of business, will harm dairy cows, and will pose potential human health threats that have been inadequately examined by the companies [producing BGH] or the Food & Drug Administration (FDA)," charges John Stauber of the Pure Milk Campaign to Boycott BGH (BGH Boycott). The BGH Boycott is calling for the FDA to postpone approval of BGH for commercial use to allow for further testing to be done.

Meanwhile, some 5,000 dairy farmers have signed a petition calling for the abolishment of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board (NDB). "One thing we want to communicate loud and clear is that we are not seeking to change NDB policies; we gave up on that long ago. We are not out to hassle the NDB, we are out to put them out of business," stated Mike O'Connell, a Wisconsin dairy farmer and a member of the *Dump the National Dairy Board* Campaign (Dump NDB).

It is the position of Consumers Union that if in fact BGH causes animal health problems, it should be rejected on human health grounds also, because of the antibiotic contamination threat.

The National Dairy Board, which was created by Congress, and is funded by a special tax levied on dairy farmers, states in a letter from the Dairy News and Information Center (DIC), that they "have never taken a position regarding [BGH], or whether the FDA should approve it, or whether farmers should adopt it if it is approved. However, since our job is to maintain confidence in the milk supply, we will continue to get the facts out on a single vital point: Whatever your views are about [BGH], you can be confident that all milk -- including milk from [BGH]-treated cows -- is safe. Simply because we disseminate the scientific facts that support [BGH] and milk safety, it does not mean we support (or oppose) [BGH], per se."

But Stauber contends that, "It is not accurate to state that the DIC 'neither endorses nor opposes the use of BGH by dairy farmers...' Clearly, the DIC is a critical component of the BGH companies' campaign to overcome dairy farmer and consumer opposition to BGH. The specific strategy of the DIC is to oppose labelling of BGH, something that consumers want, but that would kill BGH as a viable commercial product before it ever reached the marketplace....

"The 1986 BGH survey, [which] the NDB paid $23,000 to conduct, was kept from the dairy farmers and given to the BGH companies, and formed the basis of the BGH companies pro-BGH strategy. It was made public by FET after we obtained a leaked copy in 1988."

And Dump NDB's O'Connell adds, "Instead of protecting pure and natural milk, the NDB has worked with the BGH companies since 1986 to oppose BGH labeling and to overcome consumer opposition to BGH milk. This is against the best interests of dairy farmers and consumers."

Dump NDB claims that on January 7,1992, "the National Dairy Board issued a news release defending the NDB's record, pledging greater communications with dairy farmers, and claiming that the National Dairy Board is not 'selling BGH'. The news release was prepared and distributed by the public relations firm CMF&Z, based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

"Since 1975, CMF&Z has worked for Eli Lilly, one of the four companies seeking to manufacture BGH. In addition, CMF&Z is a subsidiary of the New York-based Young and Rubicam, the nation's largest advertising firm, which represents Monsanto, another company seeking to sell bovine growth hormone."

O'Connell attacked NDB's latest public relations effort, saying, "The NDB is spending our milk promotion money on a BGH public relations firm to convince dairy farmers it's not in bed with the BGH companies. This is just the latest example of why we must abolish the National Dairy Board and keep the $78 million a year in our own pockets."

"Proponents of [BGH] argue that it will lead to lower milk prices for consumers," explains Dr. Michael K. Hansen in a report produced by the Consumers Union, publishers of Consumer Reports magazine. "They theorize that [BGH] will increase production enough to cause a drop in the Federal dairy price support which, in turn, will lead to cheaper retail prices. However, although the support price for milk has fallen -- because of dairy surpluses -- since 1985, the average price of a half gallon of milk has *increased*, from $1.11 in 1986 to $143 in 1990, a 29% price rise. ...Lower support prices do not seem, at the present time, to lead to lower milk prices at the supermarket. Furthermore, since the 1990 farm bill set a floor on dairy price supports, it is even less likely that increased milk supplies will lead to reductions in retail price. Thus, use of [BGH] cannot be said to lead to lower prices for the consumer.

"Meanwhile," Dr. Hansen continues, "at least eight studies have found significant consumer concern about the use of [BGH] in the dairy industry. Most of the consumers surveyed in a 1986 study financed by the National Dairy Board said that, if given a choice, they would buy milk from untreated cows over milk from [BGH] treated cows, even if they had to switch brands or pay more. The vast majority of consumers surveyed favored labeling of dairy products from [BGH] cows in all of the studies that posed that possibility."

But the National Dairy Board maintains that it commissioned a study because it was "concerned about the potential negative impact on America's dairy farmers." In their letter from the Dairy Information Center, the Board states that "a national public opinion survey found that when exposed to erroneous but alarming claims about [BGH], nearly 40 percent of those surveyed said they would cut back or eliminate dairy-product purchases. This fact represented a tremendous threat to the well-being of America's dairy farmers. If false claims about the safety of milk from [BGH]-treated cows continued, millions of Americans would have needlessly cut back on their consumption of dairy products, and dairy sales would have plummeted, costing many farmers their livelihoods."

John Stauber of the BGH Boycott takes issues with this claim, remarking "The 1990 study referred to....is misrepresented. In fact, the 1990 study which was conducted at a cost to the NDB of $70,000, found that 41% of consumers will quit or decrease consumption of dairy products if BGH is used, no matter what the public relations response of the BGH companies, the dairy industry or the government. Still, the DIC continues on its self-destructive path, oblivious to farmer and consumer desires. The DIC does not represent dairy farmers, although it is 100% funded with their money. DIC represents the interests of the BGH companies, and functions as a front for them."

"The U.S. dairy industry has been so successful that during 1980-85, the U.S. government price support program was spending an average of $2.1 billion a year to purchase milk and dairy products for which dairy farmers could find no other market," Dr. Hansen writes in the December 1990 Consumers Union report. "The glut of milk led Congress to enact a voluntary dairy-herd termination program in 1985. The government paid farmers to slaughter their dairy cows and agree to refrain from dairy farming for at least five years. During 1986 and 1987, some 14,000 farmers participated in the program and 1.55 million cows were slaughtered. The whole-herd buy-out program cost $1.8 billion dollars. During 1987-89, the government paid between $600 million and $1.3 billion a year to purchase surplus milk.

"A number os studies have examined what will happen to dairy farmers if [BGH] is approved. Although the studies vary significantly in the magnitude of the effects they predict, virtually all have found that [BGH] use will increase the milk supply, which will drive down support prices paid to farmers, which will drive some farmers out of business. Most have found that small farmers -- who are located principally in the Northeast and Upper Midwest -- will suffer disproportionately. It is almost always small farmers, regardless of how efficient they may be, who have the least wherewithal to weather a crisis, such as a sudden oversupply of milk.

"The conclusions of the various studies all depend on the assumptions made in the models," Hansen explains. Basically, the greater the use of BGH, and thus the larger the increase in milk production, the more significant the impact on dairy farmers, particularly small dairy farmers. "A 10% surplus in the milk supply induced by [BGH] use," when combined with Federal Dairy Price Supports, Hansen points out, "could cost taxpayers $1.75 billion in the first two years after FDA approval, beyond what taxpayers would otherwise pay for the dairy price support program.

"In view of the possible economic and social costs of approval of [BGH] and the absence of any governmental body charged with considering such costs, we recommend that Congress commission the Office of Technology Assessment to prepare studies of: 1) the possible costs to Federal programs, including the dairy price support and social welfare programs, of approval of [BGH], as well as any possible benefits (such as to the tax base); 2) the impact on dairy farmers and rural economies in dairy states of approval of [BGH], taking into account changes in 1990 in the dairy price support program; 3) the impact of introduction of [BGH] on the consumer price of milk. We further recommend that Congress request FDA to defer any planned final approval of [BGH] until such studies are completed, and that Congress consider the conclusions of these studies to determine whether it should act to avoid or mitigate negative social and economic impacts."

Nevertheless, the Animal Health Institute (AHI) defends BGH, writing that "The AHI BST (BST is BGH) Public Information Working Group represents the four companies -- American Cyanamid, Elanco Animal Health [an Eli Lilly company], Monsanto Agricultural Company and The Upjohn Company -- that are independently conducting scientific research on [BGH].... [BGH] occurs naturally in milk at minuscule levels normally less than 10 parts per billion. Extensive human studies have established that

[BGH] has no biological effect on humans. Additionally, the trace amount of [BGH] found in milk does not increase when normal doses of supplemental [BGH] are administered to the cow.

"In 1985, the FDA determined that milk and meat from [BGH]-supplemented cows are safe for human consumption. That determination is based on a careful review of the available scientific literature on the subject. The FDA's finding has been independently confirmed. In 1990, this decision was affirmed in scientific peer-reviewed articles in *Science* and *The Journal of the American Medical Association.*" Additionally, a "...National Institutes of Health (NIH)... panel of experts analyzed the scientific information and unanimously confirmed the human safety of milk and meat from cows receiving supplemental [BGH], and determined that the milk's composition and nutritional value are essentially the same. Further confirmations include more than twenty international regulatory authorities; a 1991 report by the U.S. Congress Office of Technology Assessment, and articles in *Pediatrics* and the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism.*"

The "biotechnology process [that] allows [BGH] to be produced in marketable quantities," the AHI letter continues, "...is the same [process] that [is] currently used to make products such as human insulin, human growth hormone and others that have proven to be safe and effective. In the future, consumers should further benefit from biotechnology research through the development of additional products that will save lives, enhance the quality of the world's food supply and improve the environment. These products should be judged based on a careful review of the scientific facts, not through the emotional scare tactics of those opposed to advanced technologies."

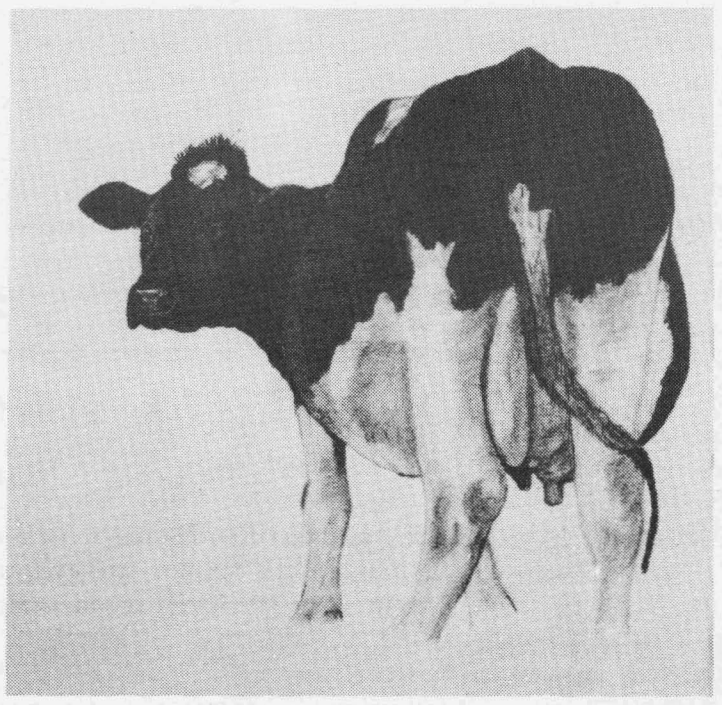
"The research conducted by these companies is the private property of each corporation," writes John Stauber of the Pure Milk Campaign. "This means that the actual data and test results are not available for independent review. In other words, the overwhelming body of data and research regarding human and animal safety of BGH is protected private business information, not available through the companies or through the Freedom of Information Act and has never been reviewed by anyone outside of these companies, their agents, or the FDA."

John Stauber attacks the sources AHI uses to back up its claims that BGH is safe for human consumption, writing, "In 1990, FDA researchers and Monsanto contractees, respectively, wrote articles in *Science* and *The Journal of the American Medical Association* [cited by AHI above]. These articles were based in large part on unpublished information, and there has not been any independent scientific review of the actual studies... A critical area of both human and animal health concern, unaddressed in the AHI letter, is the increased use of antibiotics on cows treated with BGH. If, as is indicated, cows given growth hormone have more mastitis (udder infections), there will be an increase in the use of antibiotics (sold by the same companies) to treat the mastitis. This will lead to an increase in the current problem of trace levels of antibiotics contaminating cows milk.... It is the position of Consumers Union that if in fact BGH causes animal health problems, it should be rejected on human health grounds also, because of the antibiotic contamination threat.

"...the NIH panel, which included no critics of BGH," charges Stauber, "refused to request and examine the actual data upon which the human and animal safety assertions are based, and refused to consider documents provided to them by Dr. Epstein and Dr. Hansen [of Consumers Union] that had been 'leaked' and that indicated serious animal health problems with BGH.

"The Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) study referred to was primarily authored by Dr. Dale **Baumann of Cornell [University]**, the principal Monsanto-funded university researcher. The articles in *Pediatrics* and the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* accepted FDA and corporate assurances, and again did not review the actual human and animal safety data.

"...Dr. Richard Burroughs, the principal FDA Veterinarian examining the industry data submitted to the FDA, was fired for, he claims, refusing to cover-up animal health problems in submitted studies. According to Burroughs, the industry information indicated that at the level at which BGH forced cows to give more milk, it was toxic to the animals."



Drawing by Pat Tassoni

"The so-called 'human studies' of BGH," Stauber argues, directly targeting the FDA, "were conducted in the 1950's for the purpose of determining whether human dwarfs would respond to treatment with cow hormones. The studies were not for the purpose of testing the safety of BGH, were flawed in many ways, and did not use [synthetic] BGH....

"Biotechnology should be carefully reviewed by a skeptical public. The decisions on genetic engineering are much too important to be left to corporate funded scientists. These decisions must be democratically debated and decided after a complete review of the ethical, ecological, economic and social implications. To do otherwise would be to repeat the mistakes of chemical and nuclear technologies that have left us a polluted and dangerous environment."

And on the subject of pollution, Consumers Union's Hansen adds, "When the FDA decided to allow large-scale testing of [BGH] in 1985, it prepared no environmental impact statement, based on a 'Finding of No Significant Impact' to its action. It kept secret this 'Finding' until forced to make it public by a court suit brought under the Freedom of Information Act. We believe that in making this 'Finding,' FDA completely ignored some critical issues, and dealt wholly inadequately with others. Before giving its final approval to [BGH], FDA should prepare and seek public comment on a full-fledged environmental impact statement that thoroughly and impartially examines the potential environmental impact of approving [BGH], including impacts related to possible increases in the number of confinement-type farms in the dairy industry, and possible environmental release of [BGH]-producing bacteria from manufacturing facilities via waste water or worker exposure."

Foundation on Economic Trends' Pure Milk Campaign to Boycott BGH is asking that consumers and co-ops alike demand assurances from their dairy suppliers that their dairy products are free of BGH-test milk, or else refuse to purchase them. Until the FDA gives its final approval for the use of BGH, pressure can be brought to bare on the FDA to ensure that it addresses all issues of concern before making its final decision. It should be noted that a moratorium on the use of BGH in the European Community has recently been extended another two years, to 1994.

For more information from or to express your concerns to any of the aforementioned parties, you may write to them care of the addresses listed for them below:

Dr. Michael Hansen
Consumer Policy Institute
Consumers Union
101 Truman Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10703

Pure Milk Campaign to Boycott BGH
Foundation on Economic Trends
3318 Gregory Street
Madison, WI 53711

***Dump the National Dairy Board* Campaign**
E10469 Sunset Road
Baraboo, WI 53913

National Dairy Board
Dairy News & Information Center
2233 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20007

Animal Health Institute
BGH Lobby
119 Oronoco Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2058

The Pure Milk Campaign is asking that concerns also be addressed to the following major dairy companies:

Howard Dean, CEO
Dean Foods Company
3600 N River Road
Franklin Park, IL 60131-2185

RJ Ventres, Chairman
Borden, Inc.
277 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10172

Richard P. Mayer, CEO
Kraft General Foods
One Kraft Court
Glenview, IL 60025

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"...the NIH panel . . .refused to request and examine the actual data upon which the human and animal safety assertions are based, and refused to consider documents provided to them . . . that indicated serious animal health problems with BGH."

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A Proven Alternative to Conventional Education

Nancy Sullivan

As John Taylor Gatto, New York State's Teacher of the Year for 1991 wrote, "School is like starting life with a 12-year jail sentence in which bad habits are the only curriculum truly learned. I teach school and win awards doing it. I should know." Reforms and alternatives are debated, but they don't address the fundamental problem of a system that was created in response to the demands of the industrial revolution. In this country, then-progressive thinkers proliferated schools for everyone originally as a means of filling factory slots with trained and willing workers. The school system still functions along factory lines; students are accustomed to being watched, graded, and ranked, and not allowed creative control of their destiny.

Olympia's Duniway school will be completely different. It aims to prepare students for a post-industrial world, with respect for each person's right and ability to make choices about how they want to live their own life and interact with others, and with a belief in the innate curiosity of people of all ages to explore their world and master the skills that are important to them.

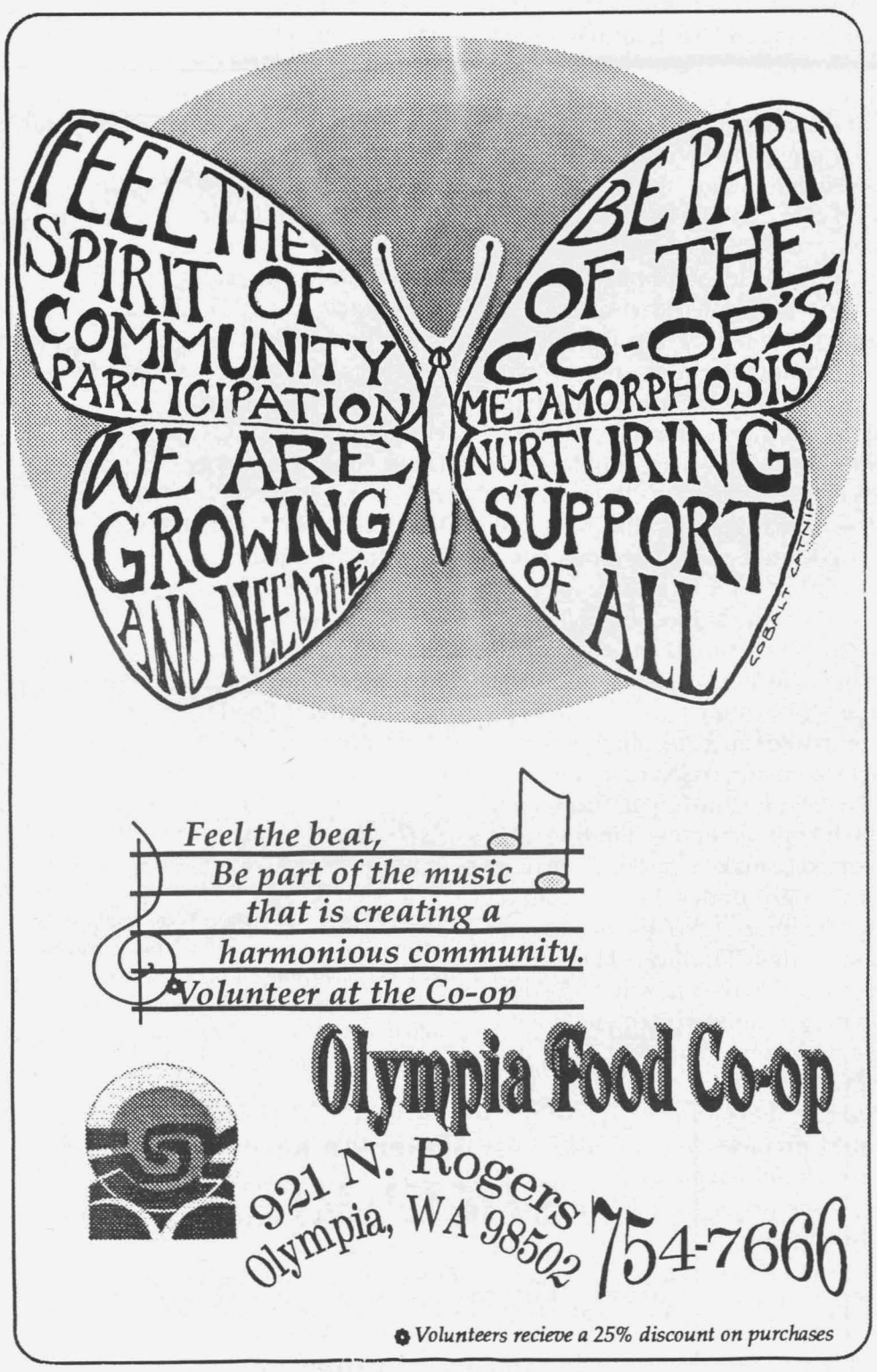
The essence of the school is the complete freedom of students to structure their time and activities as they see fit. Regardless of their age, everyone enrolled at the school will be responsible for their own education without intervention, coercion, or restraint by others. The pursuit of each person's excellence will take place in the nurturing setting of a pure democracy in which every participant, student and teacher alike. has an equal say and no arbitrary authority rules. All the day to day business of the school, without exception, will be the responsibility of the School Meeting, and each student and each staff member - anyone in the community who comes to school on a regular basis - will be a full voting member of the School Meeting. Complaints of rule violations will be handled by an impartial group composed of School Meeting members of all ages, and throughout all phases of the judicial process, School Meeting members will be guaranteed the essential rights of citizens in the community.

The model for Olympia's Duniway School is Sudbury Valley School, which has been operating for 23 years in Framingham, Massachusetts. Sudbury Valley School has demonstrated over time that a democratic school with no curriculum produces graduates who gain acceptance to the college of their choice, and, even better, who know whether they really want to attend college, pursue a trade, or follow other dreams.

In Olympia the school has incorporated as a non-profit corporation and has weekly meetings to manage the business of finding a site, hiring staff, understanding the democratic model, and publicizing the school. The current plan is to open in the fall of 1992 with students aged five or six to nineteen. People interested in participating can call 754-9330, or 754-7521 for information about the location and time of the next business meeting or study group.

Public talks about the model will be held in the social hall of United Church, at 11th and Capitol, on March 6th and April 2nd, from 7-9 pm. On March 6th the speaker will be a founder of Cascade Valley School in Portland, Oregon, a democratic school which opened this fall. On April 2nd the speaker will be Mimsy Sadofsky, a founder and staff member of the Sudbury Valley School in Massachusetts. A donation of $3 person/$5 family is requested, and childcare will be available (please request in advance at 754-9330).

"School is like starting life with a 12-year jail sentence in which bad habits are the only curriculum truly learned.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A Moral Flaw Is Our Downfall

Marvin Saillard

We live in a society which embraces a moral flaw that denies the *equal right* of every citizen to have access to land. No one can live without access to land. No one can sustain their life or satisfy their material needs and desires without access to land. This moral flaw allows some citizens to monopolize land without paying compensation to all of the citizens in the community for the special privilege conveyed by the monopoly.

Land-price inflation is the mother of all inflation, and by doing away with it we could eliminate an inflationary economy.

Land monopoly allows wealthy landowners to charge other citizens rent-of-land for giving them permission to use the land to which they hold title. This gives the landowners access to wealth produced by labor without contributing any of their own labor toward production. This enables landowners to accumulate monopoly capital without producing it or without earning it by making wages of labor, saving wages, and investing wages in capital.

Monopoly of land and capital enables wealthy land owners to exploit labor. Labor living only on wages may not be able to save enough wages to invest in capital. Make, save and invest capital does not give its owner the special privilege of exploiting labor. Martin Luther King, Jr. failed to recognize this moral flaw in our society, and he gave up his life fighting the symptoms without ever recognizing the cause.

United States citizens of every description suffer from the exploitation of labor which often leads to poverty and to unemployment. People do not recognize land monopoly and capital monopoly as the cause of their economic problems, so they use the African-Americans as scapegoats. The wealth pie seems to be limited, and they see the African-Americans keeping them from getting their rightful share. In reality the wealthy landowners are getting more than their fair share, so everyone else has to settle for less then their share. Our system of taxation primarily taxes labor and capital, and barely taxes the land where most of the wealth is to be found.

In most states land is part of the property tax, and land must be taxed at the same rate as buildings and improvements. Before the tax on land can get high enough to encourage efficient use of land, the tax on buildings and improvements is high enough to discourage construction of buildings and improvements. Our system of taxation discourages the growth of the wealth pie while enabling wealthy landowners to collect unearned income from charging rent-of-land for giving other citizens permission to use their land.

Every citizen needs to use land in order to live. The use-value of land in the community is determined by the market value of the rent-of-land. Rent-of-land is a community-created value resulting from the presence and activity of all of the people in the community, and from the public improvements and public services financed by the taxes they all pay, The presence of people and of schools, streets, sewer systems, water systems, bridges, water treatment plants, water reservoirs, sewage treatment plants, sewage lift stations, public transit, etc. all make land more useful and more valuable. Instead of taxing labor and capital, the rent-of-land should be the natural source of public revenue since it is a community-created value. This would deprive landowners of their unearned income, and they would be unable to charge other people for permission to use their land. If they wanted to make an income on their land they would have to use their own labor and capital to earn wages and interest after they paid the rent-of-land to the community government as public revenue.

Our system of taxation allows the moral flaw to operate in our economy by slapping a tax penalty on anyone who produces, builds or improves in our community through application of their labor and capital. Our tax system encourages urban slums by penalizing improvements while encouraging slumlords to milk their property of rent without improving anything enough to invite higher taxes. In that way they can make a living and pay expenses while they wait for the artificial shortage of good locations to inflate the price of land.

Eventually the need for locations on which to do business in a growing community brings a developer who can afford to buy the land (perhaps with government help). The slumlord landowner reaps a large unearned profit from selling his land. Many other landowners cannot afford to improve or develop on their land because of the expense of high taxes on their labor and their capital improvements. They let their property run down in order to avoid higher taxes, and they hold on to the land. The land is not taxed very high because the buildings on it are not very valuable. This creates an artificial scarcity of good locations and forces up the price of land.

When he finally decides to sell, he

makes a large unearned profit on the location. With capital gains tax, and with the inflated price of anything he wants to buy, he soon finds that he did not make as much profit as he thought. He is a victim of the inflation he helped to create. The *wealthy* landowner profits from land-price inflation because he can charge a higher rent-of-land and make a larger unearned income from his land. His large unearned income enables him to do business in our inflated economy without too much problem as long as he has a good tax lawyer in his employ.

People who must work for their living find themselves getting "one day older and deeper in debt." That is why there needs to be at least two incomes in the family wherever possible. If all labor and capital were untaxed, and the rent-of-land were collected as public revenue, no one could afford to hold valuable locations out of use, or in underdeveloped use while waiting for higher land prices. No one would be penalized for putting their land to its best use. Land speculation would no longer be profitable, and land-price inflation would disappear.

Whenever politicians want to woo the voters or improve the economy, they talk about cutting taxes. This system of land-value taxation would cut out all regressive taxes and make a healthy economy an ever-present condition. Land-price inflation is the mother of all inflation, and by doing away with it we could eliminate an inflationary economy. Our economy would be stable and wages would no longer have to struggle to keep up with prices. The high land-value tax would encourage efficient use of land which would create a big demand for labor and capital. Jobs would compete for workers and force up wages. Good jobs would be available for all who were willing and able to work, and there would be no need for scapegoats. More people would just mean more demand for goods and more jobs. Landowners would be busy putting their land to good use because they would no longer enjoy the special privilege of land monopoly without paying for it. They could not accumulate monopoly capital, and they would no longer have the power to exploit labor.

Free and cheap land once made this the land of opportunity, especially for land speculators. Under land-value taxation, land will always be affordable because the price (use-value) will not be inflated. We need never worry about the tax base eroding because as the population grows, and the need for public revenue grows, the rental-value of land will grow.

Marvin is a regular columnist.

ALEXANDER COCKBURN

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finally signed. The other 16 per cent just didn't want to commit. I felt that they were afraid that if they signed the card they would lose their jobs. It turned out to be a well founded fear because several of us lost our jobs. Three people have lost their jobs directly for union activities. I was fired because I was accused of stealing 15 employee files from the employers' office."

The accusation of stealing was brought forth by a Mike McGraw, owner of McGraw Construction in the form of a written statement to Steve and Elyse Harrington. The statement reads in part,

"Kass stated that there were violations in the Urban Onion. I asked 'what violations?' He stated that the union was examining 15 personnel files for labor and industries violations. I wondered why he knew there were 15 files, not 14, or 10 files. Why would he be privy to this information if he had not been involved in getting the files for the union to examine? By his statement to me, it was apparent to me he or someone he knew, got the personnel files."

Kincaid-Kass encountered McGraw on Tuesday, January 28,

1992 approximately 11:30 a.m. in front of the Urban Onion.

"What I had said was that the union had filed 15 unfair labor practice violations with the National Labor Relations Board and that we were also pursuing numerous labor and industries violations, says Kincaid-Kass. "There was no need to steal employee files because, a) employees have the right to ask for copies of their files at any time so we wouldn't need to steal them and, b) when individuals file labor and industries violations claims, Labor and Industries can subpoena any information they need to substantiate and document those charges. At no time did I have a key to the office, nor did I have a key to the restaurant, only to the lobby. At no time was I questioned as to my reaction to Mr. McGraw's statement, nor were the police called to investigate a robbery, nor was I told that files were missing.

"On February 4th, the same day I was fired, when I got to work at 5 in the evening, I was called into the office. Steve, Elyse and Mr. McGraw were there. I was handed this 'declaration,' by Steve. I was told to read it. I did. I said, 'I didn't say this.' Steve Harrington, who has never been involved with disciplinary action of employees, said, 'you are terminated effective immediately.' I started to say again, 'I didn't say this.' He cut me off and said, 'you are terminated. Your check will be mailed to you.' I said, 'thank you' and left. It should also be said that five to ten minutes after I was fired, McGraw left with Kelly Harrington, Steve Harrington's daughter and the company bookkeeper. What this means to me, is that they are not afraid to stoop to illegal means to intimidate and fire their employees."

A call to Mr. McGraw's office by *Works in Progress* was unanswered. Kincaid-Kass is working on legal action to regain his job with backpay in addition to monetary damages for wrongful dismissal.

Urban Onion Employees say that their work situation has deteriorated since Joe Earlywine was fired. Erica Getler offered her own illustration: "When I first started here, I was very welcomed by all the people who worked here. I was trained by my fellow employees. I didn't see Elyse for the first two months I worked here. I didn't know who she was. I didn't see Steve for the first three months I worked here and then only in passing. I always felt welcome by my other workers. However, I didn't feel safe because I saw co-workers being fired that I felt were good workers. From the first day I never felt honored or respected by my bosses or that I had any job security."

Earlywine is supportive of his former employees' union organizing efforts. "I would rather have things happen through direct and honest communication. However the management at the Urban Onion is incapable of direct communication, so therefore, the union seems to be the most logical step in order to create guidelines for communication. In this particular circumstance, I believe that the union is necessary, even though I wouldn't have thought that until I worked there. What I believe that the union would be good for is giving the workers a grievance procedure, a consistent schedule based on seniority and job performance, rather than the whims of the owners. They need some policy for dealing with grievances that workers have with management. It needs to be a consistent and fair policy."

Employee Jason Wallach stated, ""Everyone who has not signed a union card has a full schedule." In response to the Harringtons' strategy to portray Elyse as a victim of UO employees, Wallach said, "this is not a personal attack against the owners. We're working for fair working conditions."

"Their original reason for not wanting a union was cost," said Byram Abbott, a UO employee. "But they're spending much more trying to defeat the union than would be spent in a union shop."

Abbott is excited about what he's learned since participating in the organizing effort. "I feel like I've tapped into

this hidden tradition that's been in the United States heritage for so long, but has been repressed in the recent years due to a political McCarthyism by conservatives. It's still around. It's still breathing and kicking."

"The workers are frustrated with the abuse they were experiencing at work and want to work with a union to change that," says Steven Aldrich, H.E.R.E. Local 8 Union Representative.

"I think that people who eat and drink at restaurants in Olympia will not patronize the Urban Onion until the employer resolves their differences with their employees."

When meeting the Urban Onion crew who are fighting for their jobs and improving their working conditions, one cannot help but notice the level of commitment, solidarity and support they give to their cause and to each other. There is a strong comraderie and friendship among the group. "Sometime's it's difficult," said Byram Abbott. "It's freezing cold white-knuckled solidarity."

"We will be here until the Urban Onion is organized," said Kincaid-Kass. "We voted. We gave them documentation that 80 per cent of us wanted a union. They gave us back the documentation. They saw every name, and additional people started getting fired. We deserve better treatment."

Meanwhile, hungry Olympians still have quality choices for eating out. Both the Spar and the Governor House are unionized and both provide their employees with medical benefits, vacation pay, and job security

NEWS FLASH: THE THURSTON/LEWIS COUNTIES CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL AFL-CIO PUT THE URBAN ONION ON THEIR DO NOT PATRONIZE LIST AND SANCTIONED THE EMPLOYEES' BOYCOTT OF THE URBAN ONION AND IS ENCOURAGING ALL AFFILIATE UNIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS TO DO THE SAME.

THE THURSTON/LEWIS CLC GAVE $200 TO THE UO SUSTAINING FUND.

Union supporters who have had their hours slashed are starting to run into some financial hardship. Monetary contributions are needed. They can be sent to: Urban Onion Employees Sustaining Fund c/o HERE Local 8 - 805 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, Washington 98402.

Jiggerypokery by Al Zimmerman

"Uh . . . send the bill to the little guy!"

WIP Article submission deadline is March 19
Also on that day, there will be a WIP meeting at SPEECH at 7pm. All are encouraged to attend and get involved. Call 956-9123 for info.

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